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HISTORY OF MORTON

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# HISTORY OF NORTON TOWNSHIP



## WAIVER

In putting together this history of Norton Township many things have been encountered that do not agree. The writers have done their best to check on details, but it has not always been possible to completely verify them. Any errors or mis-statements are unintentional.

Spelling is generally as we have found it, and spellings vary from document, to newspaper items, to family usage as we find it today.

Census information is known in some cases to be in error, but that is the way it was recorded by the census takers.

Stories that are handed down through the years grow or fade in the telling. We hope you will enjoy the information, but always keep in mind that in reality it may have been a little different.



This is the symbol for Kankakee County's Bicentennial celebration. The outline is of the county itself inset over the outline of the State of Illinois. The three stars stand for county, state, and nation; the double arch of the bridge spans the two rivers (Kankakee - Iroquois) which figured so significantly in the development of the county. The 1850 locomotive climbing a sharp grade indicates the forward and upward growth of the area, and the influence of all of the county's railroads in that endeavor.

## HISTORY OF NORTON TOWNSHIP

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# Beginning History

The few arrowheads and an occasional axe head fashioned and used by the Indians which Norton Township farmers still find on their farms attest to the fact that Indians once used the "Grand Prairies" of Southwest Kankakee County as hunting grounds. The Pottawatomies, a tribe found in this area, held their last great Indian Council in Kankakee County in 1830. Although the Indians ceded their lands by the Treaty of Camp Tippecanoe in 1832, it was only by subsequent treaties that provision was made for their removal west in about 1836. The Government gave them a large reservation near Council Bluffs, Iowa.

From 1820 through 1840, the population of the south half of Kankakee County numbered less than two per square mile with the number of white inhabitants in the whole state of Illinois in 1800 only about 3000. The population of Norton Township in 1880 was 1,541; in 1890, 1,558; and in 1900, 1,761. In 1880, there was one black family in Norton, John and Catherine Moore and their eleven month old son, George. They were farmers.

At the time of the organization of Kankakee County in April of 1853, the town of Norton was a part of Vermillion County. By an act of the legislature of 1855, it and the town of Essex became a part of Kankakee County. At that time, Ira C.

Mosier, residing in and serving as supervisor of Essex presented his credentials and became a member of the board of supervisors of this county, representing Norton and Essex under the name of Essex. On March 11, 1857, the territory comprising the present township of Norton was separated from Essex and given the name of Norton.

At the first election held at the house of Major Wardell were chosen the following: Major Wardell, supervisor; David Wright, assessor; James Glass, town clerk; Samuel Carr, collector; John Carr and James Armitage, justices of the peace; George Allen and F. A. Glass, constables; Charles Luther, Thomas Glass, and Henry Platt, commissioners of highways. The total number of votes cast was 21. At the town meeting held April 4, 1884, there were 144 votes cast.

Major Wardell is said to be the oldest settler coming in 1852 to the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 13. However, W. V. States, an arrival of 1858, credits two brothers by the name of Kelsaus with the first settlement. Their home, on the west half of Section 32, was soon purchased by Joseph and Theodore Smith.

Following is a chart of the residents of Norton from an 1873 Atlas: (Further names are found in the census section.)

## NORTON TOWNSHIP (from 1873 Atlas)

NAME	OCCUPATION	NO.	POST OFFICE	BORN	When came to County
		SEC.			
W. S. Monteith	Farmer & Supervisor	22	Norton	Saratoga Co. N.Y.	1865
B. L. Cornwell	Farmer & Assessor	14	Norton	Wayne Co. N.Y.	1860
C. C. Easton	Farmer	4	Norton	Trumbell Co. Ohio	1868
J. H. Armitage	Farmer	17	Gardner	Clarion Co. Penn.	1856
W. A. Colton	Farmer	5	Caberey	Addison Co. Vt.	1868
Geo. Williams	Farmer & Postmaster	22	Norton	Wayne Co. N.Y.	1865
C. A. Porter	Farmer	23	Norton	St. Lawrence Co. N.Y.	1870
Thomas Crawford	Farmer	22	Norton	Derry Co., Ireland	1861
James R. Neer	Farmer & Teacher	36	Norton	Washington Co. Maryland	1867
D. A. Montague	Farmer	25	Norton	Huntington Co. Penn.	1867
E. H. Redfield	Farmer	21	Norton	Franklin Co. N.Y.	1869
C. W. Fulford	Farmer	35	Norton	Onondaga Co. N.Y.	1866
James Fleming	Farmer	36	Eldridgeville	Derry Co., Ireland	1866
Chas. H. Redfield	Farmer	12	Eldridgeville	Jefferson Co. N.Y.	1870
Nelson Adams	Farmer	12	Eldridgeville	Brunswick Co. N.J.	1868
C. L. Ames	Farmer & Merchant	8	Caberey	Penn.	1868
E. B. Larkin	Farmer	21	Eldridgeville	Clinton Co. N.Y.	1866
H. Eldred	Farmer	11	Eldridgeville	Otsego Co. N.Y.	1866
D. R. Swartwout	Farmer	1	Eldridgeville	Otsego Co. N.Y.	1866
A. J. Alford	Farmer	2	Eldridgeville	Stavanger, Norway	1867
John L. Brown	Farmer & Twp. Coll.	10	Eldridgeville	Otsego Co. N.Y.	1866
Ira Guiltner	Farmer	4	Norton	Tompkins Co. N.Y.	1861
J. E. Farley	Farmer & Carpenter	3	Eldridgeville	Crawford Co. Penn.	1865
Asa M. Preston	Farmer	11	Eldridgeville	Addison Co. Vt.	1869
James Glass	Farmer & Just. Peace	32	Norton	Devonshire England	1856
Joseph S. Smith	Farmer	32	Norton	Kenebeck Co. Maine	1856
J. M. Walters	Farmer	31	Norton	Fairfield Co., Ohio	1867
E. H. Webster	Farmer	31	Norton	Vermont	1869
A. Cook	Farmer	15	Union Hill	Genesee Co. N.Y.	1866
Abe White	Mechanic	9	Caberey	Burlington Co. N.Y.	1871
B. F. Farley	Physician	12	Eldridgeville	Crawford Co. Penn.	1873
H. M. Cook	Merchant	13	Eldridgeville	Jefferson Co. N.Y.	1869
Elizabeth Potter	Farmer	21	Norton	Muskingum Co. Ohio	1868
G. W. Osler	Farmer	18	Gardner	Muskingum Co. Ohio	1866
Wilham Unz	Farmer	5	Gardner	Wurtemburg, Germany	1857
Chas. Boyer	Farmer	5	Gardner	Penn.	1866
J. Funk	Farmer	9	Gardner	Wurtemburg, Germany	1867
A. J. Young	Farmer	1	Union Hill	Warren Co. N.Y.	1866
C. E. Pratt	Farmer	13	Norton	Hampshire Co. Mass.	1854
B. F. Armitage	Farmer & Ins. Agent	17	Gardner	Clarion Co. Penn.	1857
Priscilla Shaw	Farmer	10	Union Hill	Somersetshire, Eng.	1869
Orville Shaw	Farmer	10	Union Hill	New York	1869
Henry Swartwout	Farmer	10	Eldridgeville	Otsego Co. N.Y.	1868

J. N. Winstanley in his REMINISCENCES OF EARLY DAYS ON THE GRAND PRAIRIE (a 20-page booklet owned by Wm. Sadler, the Cabery barber) writes that one who has never seen a prairie before settlement can hardly realize the change that has taken place. With no buildings, groves, or hedges to obstruct his view and no smoke from chimneys or train engines to make a haze, he could see eighteen miles away the tall chimney of the factory for the manufacture of sugar out of beets at Chatsworth. Also, the silence of the prairies could be compared to no other—only by those in whose minds it remains a haunting memory can its awful solemnity be understood. Mr. Bloom, an enthusiastic hunter in Pilot, Norton, and Essex Townships in the early days, says, "I have been in what is now the town of Norton, then known as the Grand Prairie, and camped there when hunting, out of sight of timber, when the silence was profound. No sound of insect, no song of bird, no sighing of the wind—you could feel your pulse beat and hear your own heart throb." The prairies were vast silent seas of grass.

Anyone flying over the United States west of the Alleghenies has seen an amazing spectacle—a grid pattern of fields and roads and towns that covers more than two-thirds of the nation. This national landscape was created in 1785 when the new republic acquired all the vacant land between the old colonies and the Mississippi. In order to open this Northwest Territory to settlement and organize its administration, the Continental Congress authorized the National Survey, dividing the entire territory into sections or square miles, with the lines running due north and south, and east and west. Fast and easy to lay out, it can be expanded indefinitely and it makes location and description very precise. It was a landscape designed to promote equality and independence among those who settled the new territory. Largely inspired by Thomas Jefferson, the grid system represented a new relationship between men and the land. This was when the word "farmer" came into general use. It designated a man who lived and worked on property he owned in the country, and it distinguished him from the townsman.

Possibly you have seen surveying teams digging around at the intersection of two country roads. They may be looking for a common field stone not of any uniform size which was marked and buried during the National Survey. Those corner stones that are now dug up are marked with metal so that their position may be determined without digging but with a metal detector, should it become necessary to locate them again. There are also stones to mark some half-mile lines.

The law not only called for dividing the land into square miles, but also for combining every 36 of

these sections into townships. In every township, section 16 was set aside as a school section intended to support a local school and thereby create the nucleus of a community.

Mr. Winstanley remembers that the roads, although supposed to be on section lines, did not always run there and it was customary in going to a certain point to take the nearest way, always trying to avoid the big ponds and sloughs. A few years later when hedges were set on the lines dividing the farms and along the section lines, it became necessary to follow the roads but when one was in a hurry, it was a great temptation to drive over the small hedges and often over fields of growing grain. In 1976, one finds little if any osage orange hedge fence in Norton but there are still a few trees.

David Huntley remembers hearing his grandfather (also David Huntley who bought land and lived in Section 11 two miles east and one north of Cabery in 1895) tell of hunting wild fowl on the "Grand Prairie" in the early days. There would be acres of wild fowl and when they would rise they looked like a cloud. In the fall of 1858, Mr. Huntley, Sr. and Joseph Cutting shot 686 prairie chickens in 5½ days. They made a contract with Isaac Hardy who ran a large hotel in LaSalle to take all they shipped him at \$1.50 per dozen. Mr. Hardy, finding he was receiving too many to use, telegraphed them to stop sending birds.

In one winter and spring of trapping, Mr. Huntley caught 144 mink and sold the skins in Toledo, Ohio for from \$4 to \$8 each, netting him over \$600 which he used as the second payment on his land.

The winter of 1863 was very cold and the wolves grew bold. One day Mr. Huntley saw a wolf crossing the prairie and without stopping to get a gun, he mounted his horse and gave chase. When the wolf finally ran into an old slough well, Dave could find no club and the stones were frozen fast to the ground so he unbuckled one of his saddle stirrups and killed the wolf. In the winter of 1864, Mr. Huntley killed between 15 and 20 wolves, had the skins tanned and Mrs. Huntley made him an overcoat from some of them which "did him good service" and was finally given to a sick friend on the western plains.

Mr. Huntley frequently went deer hunting. On one trip, he and two companions killed seven deer, sold six of them in Ottawa for \$68, and kept the seventh for their own use.

W. V. States writes that, "Deer were quite plentiful. Mr. John Law killed two at one shot on Section 4 north of Cabery. Adam Glass killed another the same night. Mr. George Allen ran one down with his beautiful horse, Bay Dan. And one would think from the noise that the wolves made at night that

they were numbered legions; prairie chickens were always to be had in abundance."

Corn was the Indian's gift to the world and the Indian's high achievements in agriculture were their most important contributions to civilization. During this Bicentennial year, we might well reflect upon these contributions and where we might be without them. However, to grow corn the prairie soil must be prepared and this was no easy task. Where the axe and the "grub hoe" had been needed to subdue the eastern land, the *prairie breaking plow* with a share as sharp as the woodman's axe, was required to penetrate the turf of a thousand years' growth and uncover the inexhaustible soil that lay beneath the hard, matted roots of the prairie grasses and weeds. Never in history had such a problem confronted the land-seeking emigrant; but, with ready ingenuity, he forged with blacksmith's tools a new kind of plow to meet the new requirements. The old principles of a beam, handles, a mouldboard, standard, and share were all right, but the mouldboard must be made with a long, easy curve. A few curving rods were attached to the share in place of a mouldboard, probably in the "forties." The plow was made of exceptional strength for it was the rule to use three to six yokes of oxen in breaking. A new tradesman, the prairie breaker, charged a high price for his valuable service—two to three dollars per acre which was sometimes twice as much as the land had cost to buy. The government price for land was usually \$1.25; the Illinois Central, under a provision of its grant, charged at least double that amount.

With the problem of breaking overcome, it might have been expected that the soil would become tractable and obedient to the touch of its master but yet another obstacle had to be surmounted. The old wooden plows and those of cast iron that were coming in from the east and those of "boiler plate" that were made by local blacksmiths would not scour in the light vegetable mould after it had been stirred up by cultivation during several seasons. Various remedies were tried but without avail until it was discovered that a high grade of steel would clean itself. The first steel plow of which there is any record was made in 1833 in Chicago. The maker of this plow, John Lane, used an old saw—probably a worn out "crosscut,"—which had been cut and deprived of its teeth. John Deere's steel plow of 1837 was a real breakthrough in prairie farming.

When the prairie land was first broken up, it was customary to sow flax on it to "subdue" the rich soil. The April 1, 1869 *Gazette* runs this advertisement: . . . Superior screened sowing seed flax to loan to farmers . . . The May 6, 1875 issue states: "Mr. Meisenbach and Charlie Whitcomb are breaking up the Brown 80 and sowing it to flax" but soon

after this we read: "Everybody is disgusted with the crop (flax)."

In 1834, the breaking of from 12 to 14 acres of prairie sod and seeding it to fall wheat was an acceptable accomplishment. In that year, wheat brought from 50-75¢ per bushel, corn was worth 20 to 30¢, and oats sold for 15-20¢. In the 1830's, all crops were hauled to Chicago over the prairie mostly by ox team, the settler bringing back building material and such provisions as he could not raise on his land. Eldon Colman remembers hearing a great-aunt tell of always leaving a light at night in the cabins to guide late travelers. Older members of the family remember looking out the cabin windows and seeing buffalo going by. The great-aunt also tells of putting gold from the trip to Chicago in a buckskin bag around her neck for safe keeping. Since there was no transportation for corn when the Lucius Colmans first came to the area, they fed the grain to cattle and drove the cattle to Chicago. For some supplies, the Colmans went to Wilmington, as did most pioneers in this area in the middle 1800's.

The year 1869 was known as the "wet year." In addition to making it impossible to "break prairie" except on high ground, the rains also caused many to suffer from ague or "the shakes," a pioneer malady that resembled malaria or influenza. Burt Burroughs, a Kankakee historian, described its symptoms thus: "There was the 'one day,' 'two day,' or 'three day,' ager during which the victim had brief respites from the chills and the fever which followed. Mostly, however, it was just plain 'ager' that a fellow had almost daily and with no let-up from aching bones, creepy chills and 'shakes' followed by the fever." Yet, the pioneer kept at his tasks of breaking sod, cutting timber, raising his cabin, planting his crops, going for supplies to a town a day or a week away because these tasks had to be done, regardless of his pain, to survive.

Winstanley writes, "The years, 1870 to 1872, were fruitful but the price of grain declined as also had the price of hogs and cattle. Cattle sold for 2¢ per pound; hogs, 2½¢; and corn for 15-18¢ per bushel. The price of farm machinery and what the farmer had to buy, however, was not lowered like the price of the farmers' produce. They felt that somebody was tramping on their toes and began to form Granges to remedy what they considered the existing evils. In 1875, corn sold as high as 75¢ a bushel and better times dawned on the Grand Prairie." The Granges faded away.

M. F. Campbell of Buckingham was the Treasurer of the Kankakee County Agricultural Society in 1882. H. W. Monteith, George Boyer, and Mr. Campbell were on the Executive Committee.

The Oct. 9, 1873 *Gazette* notes that Club

attendants at the Kankakee County Farmers' Convention from Norton Center were B. L. Cornwell, W. S. Monteith, J. W. Ames, J. H. Armitage, J. A. Powell, and James Nutt.

In 1976, Norton farmers are still active in agricultural "societies"—E. S. Mortimer is President of the Kankakee County Farm Bureau.

Spelling schools at district school houses were a winter recreational activity, as well as "singing schools," and "writing schools." As early as 1875 the Kankakee *Gazette* of February 11 announced several schools in Norton in the next week, one at "Dublin" District No. 2. May, 1888 found P. C. Hart who has been teaching writing schools at Buckingham and Herscher conducting a class in Cabery also. Stewart Hazlett and Minnie Schlegel of Buckingham were tied for an award for having made the most improvement in penmanship at the writing school.

"Donations" seemed to be a way of providing funds for the minister and enjoying a social evening at the same time. August 1875 *Gazette* told of a donation at the residence of Mr. Patchett of Norton. About 100 partook of the good things on that occasion and all were pleased with the entertainment. The proceeds, \$40, were presented to Rev. Mr. Hunt, their pastor.

Dancing was enjoyed in newly constructed buildings before their completion or use. In May 1875 John Esser, Norton, entertained young people at a dance in the newly constructed upright to his house.

January 30, 1879 dancing was enjoyed at Crawford's Hotel in Buckingham with supper provided by Henry Randall, the local restauranteur. Finishing of the interior of the hotel was not commenced until March of 1879.

Newly constructed barns were usually initiated by "barn dances" until the 1920-1930 period.

An undated clipping from an old scrapbook is as follows:

A lively entertainment was given last week Tuesday night to a large audience which assembled, regardless of the cold night, at the school house in Dist. No. 3. The program was opened and closed with classical selections rendered by an impromptu orchestra under the leadership of Herr Von Voorst. The orchestra composed of seven instruments, from a brass horn 6 feet 7 inches long (purchased at a sale by Thos. Houghton somewhere in the 60's) down to a comb, rendered some excellent music. At the close a collection was taken.

*Kankakee Gazette*, Jan. 7, 1875—Norton—The amusements for the holidays were varied. A dance was held at J. E. Farley's on Christmas night, 45 nos. were sold and they say they had a lively time. There was a young folks party at the residence of Lewis Reed (this just before the holidays) and on Christmas he gave an old folks party. At the residence of Thomas Crawford there was quite a gathering.

## Agriculture



*Thomas Houghton Farm Home, taken 1893. Left: Sarah Houghton Gunnerson, Libby Houghton; Center: Thomas Houghton, Belle Houghton Cook, Mrs. Thomas (Naomi) Houghton; Right: Cora Houghton Grabill, John Houghton.*  
Photo Courtesy Mrs. LaVerne King

The daughter of a Norton farmer of many years ago remembers that when the first sweet clover plants appeared, her father sent her out to pull every plant she could find figuring it was a noxious weed that should be eradicated immediately. Soon farmers were planting whole fields of various kinds of clover because they found that legumes put nitrogen into the ground and their root systems revitalized the soil. In 1976, with herds of cattle almost gone from the area, once again very few clover fields are seen in Norton Township. Nitrogen is now bought commercially.

Some of the older residents of Norton can remember when men traveled through the area with sorghum presses and cookers. These men would set up their equipment and press the juices from the sugar cane which the farmer had raised, cook the

juice in HUGE pans over an open fire until it was the right consistency for molasses, then put it in the farmer's jugs or other containers, and move on to the next job.

In the late 1920's and early 1930's, a few Norton farmers planted soybeans mostly for hay. The green plants were cut with a mower just before the bean developed, put into little haystacks, allowed to cure in the sun, and then hauled into barns. An attachment was put on some corn planters to drop a bean into each hill of corn. In the fall, pigs were allowed to run in these cornfields to feed on both beans and corn. When it was found that the beans caused the pork to be soft, the practice was discontinued.

Combines started moving into Norton Township (wheat combines had been used in the West for years) in the early 1930's and soon many acres of beans were harvested as a grain after a market for them had been developed.

In 1933, chinch bugs ruined much of the wheat and oat crop of Norton and then moved into the cornfields sucking the juices from the stalks so that some fields which had been rendered useless for grain harvest were cut for cattle fodder. The number of insects was so great that when they moved across a road, a slippery hazard developed. Some residents remember that they carried a pint of chinch bugs to Chicago to exchange for admission tickets to the Century of Progress. Efforts to stop the migration of the bugs by digging trenches between fields and pouring creosote in the bottom of the ditch did not halt the insects.

The following year, 1934, grasshoppers appeared in great numbers. In a very short time, the succulent green leaves of the corn plant were eaten by the hordes leaving a field of bare worthless stalks. Some farmers tried to save their crops by mixing poison with bran and spreading this mixture on the dew-laden plants in the middle of the night when it would stick to the moisture. This had little effect on the grasshopper population.

In 1936, a severe drought reduced the yield of corn so that one farmer remembers harvesting with a cornhusker for an entire half-day and getting only two loads of corn.

Before the development of hybrid corn seed, farmers would choose the very best ears of their open-pollinated crop for the next year's seed. These ears would be hand "tipped and butted" (removing the smaller kernels at the top of the ear and the large kernels at the bottom) to make for a more uniform kernel size to plant evenly through the planter plates.

Until sometime in the 1940's most corn was "checked" (planted in hills about 40" apart in rows 40" apart) so that it could be cultivated both lengthwise and crosswise. A wire having "buttons" 40" apart was stretched across the field and staked at each end. Each time the "button" went through the planter fork, it tripped the valves causing a pre-determined number of seeds to fall into each hill. The farmer had to move the wire over when he came to each end of the field. The use of commercial fertilizers, herbicides, and hybrid seed led to the practice of drilling the corn in rows to get a much larger plant population—and yield—and doing away with the time consuming wire.



Wilhelm Unz Farm. Note barn built 1877, crib built 1900; windmill at left still standing.

Photo Courtesy Mr. and Mrs. Norman Grob

In 1941, the mechanical cornpicker and the human husker each harvested about 50% of the corn in Illinois. By 1956, 96% of Illinois' corn was harvested by the trusty picker. However, in 1976, much of the corn is combined and the grain either dried in bins on the farm or at the elevators in town.

Locker Plants in towns with banks of drawers for the keeping of quick-frozen foods below zero temperatures were the forerunners of home freezers. In the middle 40's farm wives welcomed home freezers as a way of preserving their surplus foods. Vegetables took only a few minutes of blanching instead of two long hours in a hot-water bath. Fruits retained their color and were easily frozen. Meats were easily wrapped and tucked into the freezer for a fresh taste later. Canning in glass jars has not completely disappeared but is used much less.



Flock of Chickens, once a common sight; Gerald Gaus.  
Courtesy Mrs. Alvin Gaus

Until the 1960's most farm wives cared for flocks of chickens and sold eggs for money for grocery and household expenses. Egg buyers established regular egg routes for the picking up of the full cases of eggs and leaving empties. Two of these were Ray Lynch and Johnson Produce of Piper City. Government regulations and low profit to the individual producer led to seeing only an occasional flock of chickens in the township now.

The same thing is true of dairy cattle. Donald Prussner, Reddick has the only dairy herd in Norton Township in this bicentennial year.

On August 22, 1975, the USDA announced it had sold the last government owned commodity storage structures used to store farm surpluses (CCC). The sale of this steel Quonset-type "government bin" marked the end of an era that began more than 35 years ago. In 1959, the government grain storage capacity was nearly 1 billion bushels.

Most of the harvesting was done by the farmers individually or by exchanging help with neighbors. However, in 1888 mention is found of Ames' hay

press working in the Cabery area for J. A. Bouck and Matt Welch.

The flat prairie land was found to produce well when water drainage was good. A specific type of clay was necessary for manufacturing tile, and that clay was found in Reddick where A. S. Currie had his tile factory. Some of the farmers dug in their own tile, but there were tiling crews that did many acres. The Sutter brothers, William and Peter of Reddick, relatives of Mr. Currie, had such a tiling crew. They sometimes took a tent with them and lived in it where they were working, doing their own cooking over an open fire.

One of the earliest names in tiling around Union Hill was Henry Steinhauer. Later Albert and Michael Clodi and their families did tiling, and in 1976 Richard Wepprecht carries on the business begun by his father William. Larger mains still employ clay tile, but for the most part large coils of plastic now replace clay tile. In sandy soil the plastic coils are covered with a fine nylon mesh to keep the sand from sifting through the holes in the plastic. Sophisticated techniques using laser beams to control the depth of

the machine are a far cry from the back-breaking system first used.

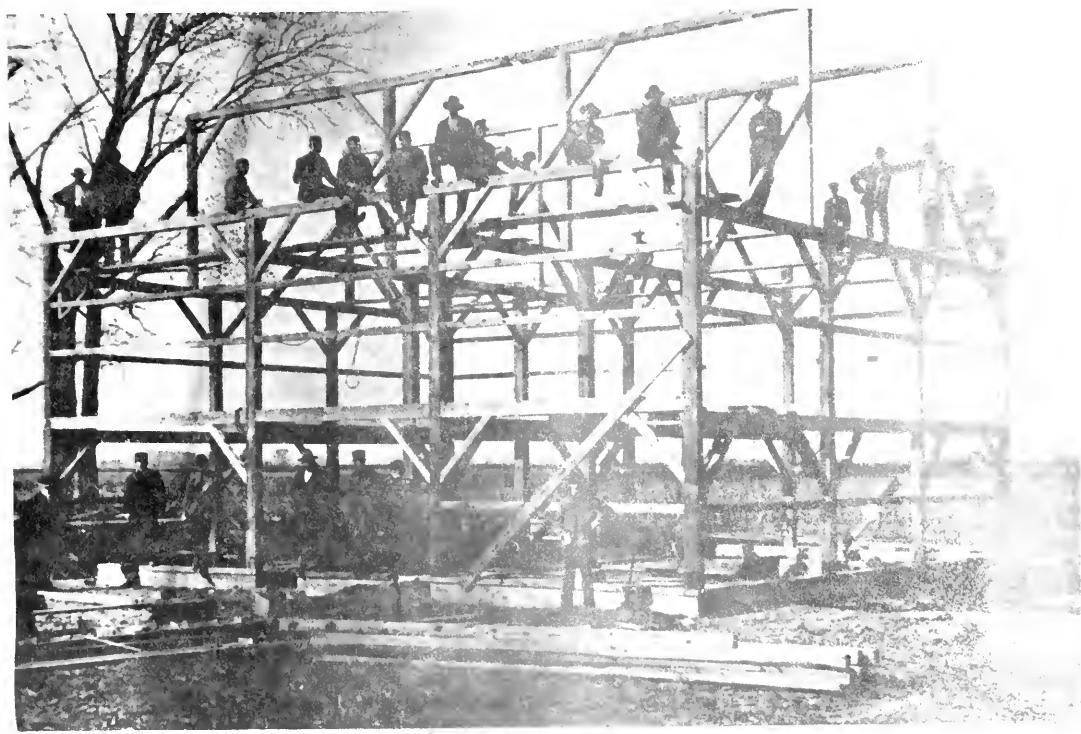
Now we think of livestock being trucked to rail points or markets, but a *Gazette* item from Buckingham, March 29, 1888 states:

"Monteith and Armitage drove to Buckingham today a cargo of fat cattle but were compelled to take them home again because the necessary cars can not be had. Another result of the Pontiac disaster."

Alvin Gaus of Buckingham recalls driving livestock to town for shipment as late as 1920.

In many things progress has been made in the last hundred years, but some things remain constant. Example: *Gazette* of January 23, 1879, Cabery—"Capen & Co. have built a temporary bin for shelled corn with a capacity of 3000 bushel, being unable to procure cars to accommodate the rush." How familiar this sounds to the farmers of 1976.

Barn raisings, once a necessity, required much professional and volunteer labor. Pictured below is a barn raising in the Union Hill area.



Barn Raising—John Schott south farm  
Courtesy Mrs. LaVerne King

### III

## Minerals and Coal

The first mention that has been found of mining or mineral exploration in Norton is 1888. The following news items taken from *The Kankakee Gazette*, submitted by the Reddick correspondent tell the story in week-to-week form:

May 31, 1888—An agent for a large coal company has been spending the past week in buying the coal under Reddick and vicinity. Several thousand acres have been obtained and as soon as the titles are perfected the cash will be paid. This looks like business but it doesn't unsettle this place to know that in the future it will become a great coal center. Reddick goes quietly about its business, knowing itself to be perfectly prepared for emergencies. The farmers are still attending to their planting as if there were no coal to sell.

June 28, 1888—The coal company have bought the Rieke and Funk farms, top and bottom. They are drilling on the Kluckhohn place.

July 19, 1888—Boring for coal is still going on. All around here the 90 days' option which the company took has nearly expired and the farmers are anxious to take back their contracts, as some of them are heartily sick of their bargain. As mines are opened around and at this place it will give us a small boom, although it will bring elements into our social institutions that are not very desirable.

July 26, 1888—The coal men are drilling on the Patchett farm and boring on Weimer's place.

Aug. 16, 1888 (Buckingham news)—P. C. Patchett has sold his 240 acre farm which includes the T. Gibson property for \$75 per acre to Felton of Reddick for coal prospecting purposes.

Aug. 23, 1888—We understand the coal prospectors have struck an artesian well on the farm of Mr. Ryen three miles south of here. If they do not succeed in getting coal there, the well will prove a blessing to the owner.

Sept. 6, 1888—The coal prospectors are at present boring on the farm of R. Shelly just north of town. We understand that one firm has given it up and left, but Mr. Felton sticks to it.

Oct. 18, 1888—The Reddick coal mines is now a "chestnut." Please find something else to talk about.

Nov. 22, 1888—The coal company has been still for some time, but it comes to light that there has been discovered on Mr. Connors' farm two miles east of town four feet of coal. The people are thinking perhaps Reddick will amount to something yet.

There ended the copies of *The Gazette* which were available. No mining was ever done in Norton Township, but during the years rumors of the strip mining firms digging from the Essex mines to the old Cardiff site would be heard. Concern over air pollution and work of the Environmental Protection Agency curtailed the use of high-sulphur coal, and the Essex mines are now abandoned.

In the 1950's an independent oil prospector named Kintop was convinced there was oil on the Schott land in Section 2. Mr. Kintop drilled just south of the railroad track many times. He also leased land from neighboring owners in case he should be successful in finding oil, but all of his efforts were to no avail.

In mid 1960's an underground storage dome for natural gas was developed in the northern part of the township. In 1976 wells are still being drilled. This is an extension of the large underground dome at Herscher, a project of Natural Gas Storage Company.

# IV

## Government

### CIVIL WAR

The companies from Kankakee County went into camp at the Fairgrounds in August of 1862. Later, they went to Camp Douglas in Chicago where the following from Norton were mustered into service on Oct. 1, 1862 as members of the 113th Illinois Infantry: J. P. Campbell, F. A. Glass, John J. Kellogg, Allen Smith, A. G. States, and Wm. Wurts. Later Francis Houghton and Levi Walters joined this same regiment.

Others on the roster of soldiers of Norton are:  
129th Illinois Infantry—Charles Wykes  
53rd Illinois Infantry—W. S. Campbell, D. Colestock, and J. Smith  
42nd Illinois Infantry—James Bruce and Geo. Heoffman  
4th Illinois Cavalry—Thomas Whaley  
8th Illinois Cavalry—James N. Wilcox  
Meconic Fusiliers—Edward Congrove

From Momence was Walter Hendrix who enlisted on July 18, 1862 in Company H of the 76th Illinois Infantry leaving his crops in the ground. William Hendrix enlisted from Ganeer. Both were from Norton later in life.

### NOTES FROM RECORD OF COMMISSIONERS OF HIGHWAYS OF NORTON

April 5, 1878—A. J. Young, Geo. Stover, and James Fleming met at the home of W. V. States, Town Clerk. Mr. Young was elected general overseer of highways.

May 6, 1878—At meeting at Norton P.O., grading was let to lowest bidder at an average of 2¢ and 8 mills per yard.

March 15, 1879—G. S. Boyer elected overseer of highways.

July of 1879—K & SW RR notified to put in a crossing on the road west of Buckingham.

March 30, 1880—Town was divided into 12 road districts.

April 20, 1880—It was voted that \$2.00 should be assessed against all persons liable to poll tax as poll tax to be paid to Commissioners or its equivalent in

labor performed. On motion of J. Smith, a road tax of 35¢ on the \$100 of real estate and personal property liable to taxation.

Jan. 28, 1882—Laid out road by Wm. Wiseman's and F. Wiseman's.

Apr. 18, 1882—H. F. Nordmeyer elected general overseer of highways.

Apr. 19, 1883—Wm. Sargent was elected general overseer of highways.

May 12, 1886—Bids for Iron Bridge over Horse Creek near residence of J. Fleming, Esq. \$780 bid of Masillon Bridge Co. lowest. Given to said company. Bought—

300' of 12" culvert pipe @ 30	\$90.00
100' of 14" culvert pipe @ 36	36.00
100' of 16" culvert pipe @ 48	48.00
50' of 8" culvert pipe @ 15	7.50
Keg of spikes	2.50

Apr. 20, 1886—H. Nordmeyer was elected general overseer with Job McNamee and Thomas Gibson, commissioners.

April 16, 1889—Job McNamee, A. W. Cotton, and John Kral, Com. of Highways.

April 9, 1896—The Town was divided into 3 districts with K. Hennessey the commissioner in the west third of the Town, A. Johnson commissioner in the center third, and Wm. Ellsworth commissioner in the east third of the Town.

March 28, 1899—The Town was divided into six districts.

In the 1900's some of the road commissioners were George McGinnis, Jesse Colman, J. W. O'Brien, Charles Jessup, C. E. Gifford, Elwyn Wagner, and Everett Mau and in 1976 Lawrence Schneider.

At the June 5, 1915 meeting of the commissioners of Highways it was "decided to enforce the law of 1895 prohibiting the running at large of stock on the Public Highway in Norton Township. Ordered notices to be published in the *Cabery Enquirer* and *Herscher Pilot* and posted in prominent places in Norton Township of enforcing the above law."

## NOTES FROM TOWN BOOK NO. 2—NORTON

April 6, 1880—W. V. States, Town Clerk, asked an appropriation of three hundred dollars for defraying the expenses of the Town of Norton for the year 1880. Same was voted. Resolved that every man shall clean off the cockle burrs from the center of the road along his land to the fence. Carried. Elected overseers of Highways: Dist. 1 Henry Nansing, Dist. 2 M. Riley, Dist. 3 Wm. Unz, Dist. 4 John Gibson, Dist. 5 H. Monteith, Dist. 6 G. Townsend, Dist. 7 G. Crydenwise, Dist. 8 R. Beardsley, Dist. 9 Geo. Webster, Dist. 10 Nick Sadler, Dist. 11 H. Hiddleston, Dist. 12 J. L. Brown.

The financial statement for 1880 shows that "For one day's work with team 'going' for scrapers—\$2.50 and for the 'Taking of Agriculture Statistics'—\$25.00."

April 6, 1897—A vote was taken to raise \$750.00 for town expenses. People voted almost unanimously to raise the amount. 327 names on the poll list. The pauper bill was \$204.07.

June 13, 1898—By order of Supervisor Geo. Reed and L. G. Nutt, J.P., and Geo. McNamee, town clerk, the towns Pilot, Essex, Rogers and Round Grove all joining town of Norton were mailed this notice: "You are hereby notified to have your town Board to appoint your Canada Thistle Commissioner if not already appointed and have him notified to meet with the Canada Thistle commissioner of Norton and use their power and best means to exterminate the noxious weeds."

Mar. 17, 1900—A petition to ABOLISH POLL TAX IN TOWN OF NORTON FOR THE LEGAL VOTERS filed by 26 legal voters . . . a petition by 27 legal voters filed to have the question of paying the District Labor and Property Road Tax in money instead of labor . . .

April 3, 1900— . . . to pay District Labor Road Tax in Labor instead of money carried for labor. To abolish poll tax was carried. 318 names on poll list of voters at this meeting.

April 5, 1902—At this meeting, the poll list is kept separately for two precincts . . . voting being held at Worth and Armitage's Hall in Buckingham and Reilly School House—216 and 109 names on list, respectively.

Aug. 5, 1907—Commissioner levied for expenses of coming year—\$4600.00 itemized as follows: \$2500 for bridges, \$1000 for tiling roads, \$500 for grading roads, \$300 for Overseer, and \$300 for road machinery.

April 7, 1908—*No levy being made* for township needs as sufficient sum in treasury for the next year.

Sept. 6, 1910—Decided to make the compensation for assessing in the Town of Norton \$162.50 per year when the land assessment is not

made and \$212.50 for the year when the land assessment is taken.

April 2, 1912—For Anti-Saloon Territory 133 votes; against 212.

April 1, 1913—Motion made by Joe Urbain and seconded that a levy of \$550 be made for Town Expenses itemized as follows: Election expenses, \$75; Salaries, \$250; Paupers, \$125; and clerk hire, \$100. Number of persons who voted at election in Precinct 1, 38; Precinct 2, 16.

Following are some interesting notes gleaned from the town book:

Sept. 5, 1902—Dram Shop license granted to Henry s and John Brooks; Poolroom licenses to Mike Nelson and Abe Fermen. George W. Heller, first Village marshal.

Dec. 1902—Salaries per meeting: Pres., \$1.50; Treas., \$1.67; Clerk, \$4.17; Trustees, \$1; and Marshal, \$1.00.

Jan. 1903—Village bought jail from A. F. Beardsley for \$325.00.

April 1903—Pres., A. A. Armitage; Clerk, E. E. Swope; Magistrate, W. V. States; Treas., H. S. Randall; Trustees, J. N. Cook, W. S. Potter, Ed Fermen, C. W. Smith, John Nutt, and B. Randall.

June 1903—Voted to purchase posts and materials for hitching racks.

April 1906—E. F. Glass elected clerk of village board.

March 7, 1908—Resolution to form Volunteer Fire Department adopted.

Oct. 1908—Fire bell installed on jail building.

Apr. 1909—John Mahood elected president.

Apr. 1911—A. A. Armitage, Pres.

April 1913—Oliver Brooks, Pres.

Apr. 1915—W. R. Kent, Pres.

Dec. 1915—Purchased electric light plant for \$1,075.00.

Jan. 1917—Mr. Tuntland reported he had contacted interested women about ironing with electricity and they decided on a Wednesday but by Apr. 4 the use of electric irons was discontinued.

June 1917—Streets were oiled.

Apr. 1918—A. F. Beardsley, Pres., and Miss Irma Beardsley, Treas.

July 1924—Bid for electric transmission line from Public Service of N. Ill. accepted for \$4,000. (Electricity was in in 1926)

Apr. 1921—S. J. Mahood, Pres.

July 2, 1929—H. A. Madison, Pres.

Feb. 14, 1933—H. Tuntland, Pres.

Apr. 1935—E. Crydenwise, Pres.

July 1937—First streets blacktopped.

Apr. 1965—James Wills, Pres.

Oct. 1965—Natural Gas Franchise approved. Installed 1968.

Oct. 1966—Herscher Sportsman Club annexed to the

village.

June 1971—Alvin West, Pres.

Apr. 1973—Ruth L. Heller, President—the first woman in Kankakee County elected to this office. Janet Jordan is the present clerk of the village.

#### NORTON TOWNSHIP—LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

While serious legal matters were handled by the County Court in Kankakee, less serious matters seem to have been handled locally by a Justice of the Peace.

1875—Norton—Business is brisk before Squire Monteith. Two suits this week and three on the docket for Thursday.

1875, May 6—Norton—Squire Monteith is pressed some with lawsuits. No trespass case Saturday and an assault and battery case on Monday. It is amusing to see two of the legal fraternity come from town to try a case and call each other hard names, and then have a short recess, step out and have a few drops of cordial from the same vial and commence again.

1876, April 13—Norton—Squire Monteith has had a case of assault tried before him which helped to drive dull care away.

Norton Township had a representative in the Lower House of the Illinois State Legislature. Hon. Matthew F. Campbell, a retired farmer, was elected to represent Kankakee County in 1884, and was a

member of the Lower House during the long contest for the election of United States senator in which John A. Logan was victorious.

1876, March 2—April term Grand Jury

Norton, J. H. Armitage; Petit Jurors, Norton—Charles Boyer, Henry Ballou, Thos. Glass.

Different political administrations were used once as a method of pinpointing dates. An example:

1887, March 3 *Gazette*—South Norton, Ed

Cook of Watertown, N.Y. who lived here the latter part of Grant's administration and the first part of Hayes' is here visiting relatives.

#### COURT HOUSE

The County Seat of Norton Township is at Kankakee, Illinois. In this 1909 picture of the laying of the cornerstone of the Court House, all the township supervisors are wearing badges on their shoulders. A. A. Armitage was the supervisor from Norton Township. Others identified from Norton are Wm. Hendrix, Charles Jessup, and Edward Berger. Others among the supervisors identified are Gustav Berger of Pilot and Henry Gaus of Salina.

#### TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

In 1976, the Norton Township Officials are:

Supervisor—Vernon Feller

Clerk—Everett Hendrix

Assessor—Edwin Balgeman

Auditors—Carl Hunt, Irving Nelson, Paul Malone, Eldon Berger



*The supervisors of each township are pictured here at the Laying of the Corner Stone at the Kankakee County Court House in 1909. Identified are Mr. Gustave Berger of Pilot, Mr. Henry Gaus of Salina, A. A. Armitage of Norton, Supervisors, and also Edward Berger, Wm. Hendrix, Charlie Jessup, and Charles Preston.*  
*Photo Courtesy of Mrs. John Rathman*

# Schools

Norton Township was organized for school purposes in 1860. Previous to that a school was taught in the granary of Joseph Smith on Section 32 by a Miss Luce. The town then formed a sort of organization and soon afterward built the first schoolhouse in what was District 9. The first trustees were James Glass, Joseph Smith, and E. C. Colstock. J. H. Armitage was the first Treasurer.

In 1866, Norton was divided into three districts and the next year Miss Ada Strickland had the high honor of being the first in Kankakee County to teach in a sod schoolhouse in District No. 3 near Cabery. The sod schoolhouse was used for about two years and in 1883, a writer in an atlas states that he could see "the outline of its walls." Miss Amelia Majorowicz of Cabery remembers seeing a slight mound marking the place where the sod schoolhouse had collapsed when her director, Mr. Christ, pointed it out to her as late as 1931. Our picture shows the Colton School, District 151, in 1934. It stood on the lot very near to



*Colton School No. 3, SE corner Section 6, District 151. Date of Photo—May 24, 1934. Teacher: Mary Joyce taught the last year school was held in this building, 1940-1941.  
Photo Courtesy of Miss Amelia Majorowicz*

where the sod schoolhouse had been. There were 85 trees in the yard. The last year of teaching in this school was 1940-41 with Mary Joyce as teacher.

Great progress in education was made between the days of the sod school and the years 1933-1936 when a Junior College was established in Reddick with government funds (C.W.E.S.). It was during those depression years that many young people were unable to find employment but through this service were given an opportunity for learning that would otherwise have been denied them. Credit for this Junior College goes to Mr. O. A. Towns, Principal of Reddick High School.

## SCHOOL DISTRICTS

**DISTRICT NO. 1**—Located on land owned in 1873 by Paul Meyer.

Early directors: Thomas Houghton 1877, 1893; A. J. Young 1878; Henry Nansing 1879; W. G. Smith 1889; John Kroll 1887; N. W. Young 1886; Theo. Nordmeyer 1886; Geo. VanVoorst 1887; H. F. Nordmeyer 1892, 1895; A. G. Smith 1892, 1894; Louis Balgeman 1892.

Teachers: May Schobey 1897; Mrs. Frances Young 1880; Nellie M. Gorman 1880; Jessie B. Mather 1881; H. S. Randall 1883/84; Mary Moran 1884; Nora Whalen 1884, 85, 86; Alice Cook 1886; Mary Stevens 1887; Sarah A. Ryan 1887, 88, 89; Mrs. J. H. Lenney 1890; B. G. Gunnerson 1890, 91, 92; Libby Houghton 1891, 93; Anna Maile 1892-93; E. D. Grabil 1894-95.

School consolidated with Essex Twp. Dist. No. and relocated on present Route 17 just east of the Union Hill corner. Two room school, first room containing six grades; second room grades 7 & 8 and first two years of High School. High school was discontinued in 19 ; then four grades in each room. Later consolidated into RUCE Community Unit and building used for some years as an attendance center. Property sold to Daniel Ryan and later to William Coleman for use as a tavern.

**DISTRICT NO. 2**—Located on land owned by P. Riley in 1873. This district was known as Dublin

# Record of Proceedings of District School Meetings.

for the purpose of building a  
School house & not to exceed  
Fifty hundred Dollars.  
On motion the meeting adjourned.

Aug 8<sup>th</sup> The legal qualified voters in this  
School District assembled at the  
School house on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup>  
day of Aug 1866 for the purpose of  
electing one School Director in the  
place of John Sargent whose term of  
office Wednesday exp[ired]

The polls were open at 6 o'clock P.M.  
and closed at 8 except P.M. according  
to previous notice legally given.  
A. B. Sawyer & George W. Warner acted  
as judges. S. P. Rice as clerk of  
the election.

C. M. Frost was elected School  
Director of this district for the term  
of three years from the date  
preceding this meeting which was

Aug 8<sup>th</sup> The several meetings, so called,  
held throughout the formation  
On motion, the meeting adjourned  
for one week.

Aug 15<sup>th</sup> Adjourned until No Monday

Oct 21<sup>st</sup> Special meeting held  
C. M. Fauth acting as judge  
S. P. Rice as clerk.  
Polls of election open at 6 P.M. and  
closed at 8 P.M. To determine  
one for the following named.

School due to extensive Irish residents in the area.



Union Hill School (Original building southwest of village) taken circa 1896. Back Row: left to right—Herbert Balgeman, Libby Houghton, teacher; Bert Smith (in tree); Walter Tatro, James Testin, Amanda Balgeman, Alma Smith, Mary Testin, Maude Schott, Alma Balgeman, Emma Nordmeyer, Celia Nordmeyer, Agnes McCabe, ?; Bottom Row: Nordmeyer, Nordmeyer, Grace Schott, Tatro, Fred Tatro, Emma Siemering, (in chair), Alice Nugent, Lily Balgeman, Pearl Van Voorst, Henry Testin; In tree: Paul and Martin Nordmeyer.

Photo Courtesy of Mrs. LaVerne King

Early directors: M. Riley 1877; M. Kelley 1878; John Muldoon 1879; William McGinnis 1885; Timothy Buckley 1885; James Riordan 1886; Fred Hanswirth 1892; F. M. Clodi 1893; T. Buckley 1894; Patrick Lonergan 1895.

Teachers: Mary W. Cassiday 1879, '93; Rosa Riley 1879, 1880; James Reiley 1880, 1881, 1882; Anna Joyce 1881; Bridget Mulligan 1893; Mary Moran 1894; Anna Joyce 1894, 1895; Mary Roberts 1885; Delia McQueen 1886; Lucy B. Curran 1886, 1887; Minnie McGovern 1887; D. L. McLane 1888, 1889; Katie Buckley 1888, Kate Tyrell 1889; Agnes Allen 1890; Alma Allen 1890; Lizzie Haggerty 1892; Anna Meaden 1893; Gertrude Shimmin 1894.

When attendance at school was discontinued because of school consolidation, building was purchased by Reuben Lehnus. It is now the residence of



Union Hill School picture (west room, grades 1 through 6) taken circa 1923. Seated, Leona McGovern, teacher; Rows left to right—First Row: Noma Hall, Vernon Dittus, Lorena Iffland; Second Row: Vera Baker Johnson, Evelyn Hebekeuser Grob, Wilma Hall, John Ruder, Jr., Wilbur Desens; Third Row: Josephine Dewey, Arlene Iffland Johnson, Rachel Beaucherc Hiddeson, John Dewey, Emmett Dooley; Fourth Row: Helen Cook King, Vernon Feller, Isadore Ruder, Gertrude Beaucherc Rowen.

Courtesy Mrs. LaVerne King

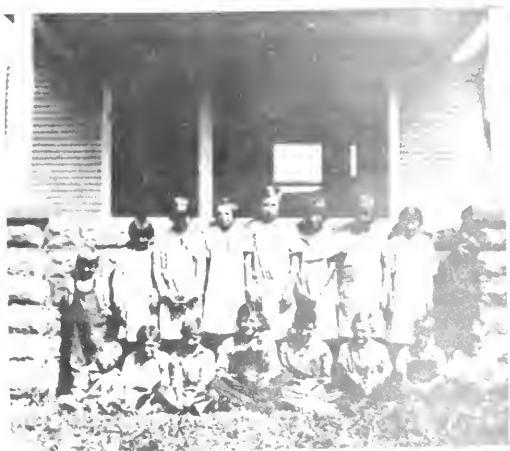


Dublin School—Original building, taken circa 1907/1908. Top Row: left to right—Katie McGinnis, Dennis Houseworth, Hilda Houseworth, Ella Houseworth, Loretta Corcoran, Ada O'Brien, Irene McGinnis, Rose McGovern, teacher; Bottom Row: Lester McGinnis, Phil Riordan, Charley Houseworth, Francis Hennessy, Francis McGinnis, Eddie McGinnis, Rolland Houseworth.

Courtesy Mrs. Edward McGinnis

DISTRICT NO. 3—School house was located on property owned by George Feller in 1873.

Early directors: George Boyer 1877-79-86; William Unz 1878; Geo. Weis 1879, 87; Francis McGirr 1886; Charles Boyer 1887; R. D. Shelly 1889; Robert Nugent 1892; Henry Kluckholm 1893; Thomas Ferriter 1894; S. G. Smith 1895; Edward Unz 1892.



Dublin School—District No. 141, Taken 1928-29. Back Row: left to right—Glenn Scott, Anastasia Fritz, Lucille King, Dorothy Lonergan, Dorothy Fritz, Theresa Fritz, Bernice Scott, Marie Fritz, Robert Geiger; Front Row: left to right—Gerald Fritz, Aloysius Lonergan, Arnold Fritz, Eldon Oberlin, Arthur Fritz, Lyle King, Walter Scott, Dale King.

Courtesy Mr. & Mrs. Dale King

Teachers: Lizzie McDonald, 1878,79,80,81; Anna Lope (Sp. ?) 1881; Mary Krollman 1881,82,83,84,85; Hattie M. Kellogg 1883; Luella Mann 1883,84; James Reilly 1885; Nellie Shimmin 1886,89,90,91; Helen N. Peck 1886,87; Olive Cooper 1889; Lizzie Hagerty 1891; Tina Mackay 1891,92; Maggie Haggerty 1892; Ada E. McElvain 1892,93; Susie D. Neer 1893,94,95.

DISTRICT NO. 4—Building was on property owned in 1873 by John Gibson.

Early directors: Thomas Gibson 1877,78; John Gibson 1878,80,86,92,95; Simon Prussner 1879; S. P. Coulthurst 1880,87; F. R. Patchett 1894; T. F. Halloran 1893; C. D. Redfield 1892.

Teachers: Adie Strickland 1878; Pauline Bryant 1879; Agness Eaton 1879,80; Susan Estinger(?) 1880; Wm. Edmunds 1881; Luella J. Bateman 1881; Aaron Good 1881,82,83; Addie Smith 1882; Hattie M. Kellogg 1883,84; Mary A. Moran 1885; Nancy Penry 1885; Phebe Patchett 1886,88; Anna Bogg 1887,88; Emma Reed 1889; Orah Record 1889,90; Meda Synder 1890; Julia O'Malley 1890; Drusella Flewelling 1890,91; Maggie Mulligan 1891; Ida Haughn 1892; Arminda Dean 1892,93; Ella Mulligan 1893,94.



Reddick School (located one mile east of town) 1902. Top Row: Lloyd Funk, Newton Fager, John Weimer, Roy Weis, Irvin Fager, Walter Hulbert, Ezra Weis, George Johnson, Earl Nelson, Clarence Hulbert; Second Row: Irma Nelson, Estella Unz, Ella Funk, Lottie Stacey, Maggie Kelly, Cerelda Carroll, Mary McGinnis, Blanche Bloxam, Alice Rielly, Maggie Parkhurst, Lucy Weis; Third Row: Neva Gustin, Mayme Johnson, Carrie Funk, Olive Kluckhohn, Mary Sutter, Florence Fager, Dee Atkinson, Ruth Weimer, Beulah Bloxam, Inza Stubblefield, Lenora Emme, Nora Weis; Fourth Row:

Harry Smith, ?, Ruby Lish, Florence Merrill, Inez Guest, Eva Fager, Ida Portz, Kitty Johnson, Jessie Funk, Verna Unz, Ruth Brindley, Gladys Bloxam, Charles Rielly; Fifth Row: Billie Atkinson, Harry Brindley, Earl Emme, Fred Kluckhohn, Charles Brindley, Charlie McFall, Ernest Parkhurst, Eddie Rielly, ?, Johnnie McGladdery; Sixth Row: Freddie Portz, Bennie Bigelow, Eddie Sutter, John Parkhurst, Earl Parkhurst, Tommy Rielly, Harry Parkhurst, Howard Funk, Bert Bloxam, Eddie Kluckhohn; Teacher left side, Laura Hasemeyer; Teacher right side, Nellie V. Shimmin.  
Photo Courtesy of Mrs. N. E. Hamilton



Patchett School—taken circa 1900. Back Row: left to right—Leila Redfield, ?, Edna Reed, Edith Patchett, Laura Kane, Lucy Halloran McGinnis; Front Row: Earl Patchett, Vernon Redfield, Leslie Patchett; teacher unidentified; Rue Patchett, Frank Kane, Mabel Patchett, Mary Halloran; Seated on ground left—?, Seated on ground right—Edward Meisenbach, Sr.

Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Ted Zeller



Patchett School—taken 1940. Back Row: William Brooks, Edna Finnegan, teacher; James Tavares, C. Ray Prussner; Front Row: Geraldine Hooper Jensen, Marilyn Ruder Grob, Marion King, Robert Brooks.

Courtesy Mrs. Norman Grob

DISTRICT NO. 5—Schoolhouse on property owned by J. E. Negus in 1873—Section 17—known as Reed School.

Early directors: George Williams 1876,'87; Lemuel Cook 1877; H. W. Monteith 1892, '89; George Reed 1892,94; A. A. Armitage 1892, '95; W. Monteith '92,89; G. Peterson 1892,93; Walter Hendrix 1879,86,93; E. H. Redfield 1879; Joseph R.

King 1880; Robert Hunter 1889; O. H. Tofte 1895. Teachers: JR Neer 1879,80,81; H. S. Randall 1879,83,94,95; Jennie B. Monteith 1879,80; Geo. W. Stover 1880; Stella Danley 1881; John W. Bartholomew 1881; Ella Truax 1882; G. S. Randall 1883,84; Libbie Sumner 1885; Chester Metcalf 1885; Nancy Penry 1885,86; Ada J. Beardsley 1886; Cora Randall 1886,87; Eunice Reed 1887; Emma J. Reed 1887,88,90,91; Daniel Rice 1888,1889; Meda Snyder 1889; Hattie M. Kellogg 1890,92; Ruth Jessup 1891,92; G. L. Randall 1892; Lizzie Nutt 1892; Rhoda Hunter 1893; T. A. MacKay 1893; Alice Ellsworth 1893,1894.

The school closed because of insufficient students and children were transported to Buckingham Grade School, later incorporated in Herscher Unit 2.



Reed School No. 5 SE corner of Section 16 (District 144); Date of Photo—April, 1938; Teacher—Russell Mau; L. to R. Vincent Buckley, Viator Buckley, Wallace Jordan, Madlyn Schmidt.

Photo Courtesy of Russell Mau

DISTRICT NO. 6—Building located on land owned in 1873 by C. E. Pratt, Section 13.

Early directors: Charles Whipprecht 1878; Frank Jessup 1879,89,92; Oley Moeling 1879; Chas. Bouk

1880; John Fritz 1886; Peter Hoppauer 1887; Thomas E. Patterson 1893; Fred Whithoft, Sr. 1894; Wm. Ellsworth 1895; Jerome Hollenbeck 1892.

Teachers: J. F. Snyder 1878; Jessie Mather 1879; Nettie E. Jackson 1880; Ada E. Houghn 1881; May Schobey 1882; Phebe Eldred 1882; G. L. Randall 1883; Carrie E. Mather 1883,84; Nannie Penry 1884,85,86,87; J. A. Alford 1885; Lena C. Corkill 1885,86; Hattie Cornwell 1887,91,92; Lucy B. Curran 1888; L. G. Nutt 1889,91,92,90; L. M. Harkless 1889; Dora Nutt 1890,91; Ruth Jessup 1892; E. D. Graybill 1893,94; Drusella Flewelling 1894; Lizzie Nutt 1894; Anna Maile 1894; J. V. Gilborne 1895; Geo. Van Dorn 1895.

Known as Ellsworth School.



*Ellsworth School No. 6 SW corner of Section 13. Date of Photo—about 1920. L. to R. Isaac Ramsey, Elmer Ramsey, Charles Wepprecht, Madeline Herscher, Eldon Colman, Henry Elmhorst, Elmer Wepprecht.*

*Photo Courtesy of MM Wayne Ramsey*

#### DISTRICT NO. 7

Early directors: Geo. Smith 1892; Jas. Duffy 1892; Thos. McGinness 1886, 89,92,93; Joseph S. Smith 1880; Geo. W. Stover 1877; E. Webster 1878; H. M. Wells 1879; Thomas Halloran 1887; Geo. F. Smith 1892; Chester Smith 1894; John Moran, 95.

Teachers: Emma Savory 1879; Lizzie Webster 1879; W. O. Wright 1880; Adie Smith 1880,81; C. B. Williams 1881; Alice Westgate 1882; Deet Glover 1882,83,85; Grace Glover 1883; Phebe Patchett 1884; H. S. Randall 1884; G. F. Bratton 1884; Hattie M. Kellogg 1884; Delia M. Quinn 1885; Darius. R. Shoop 1886; Mary Kevin 1886,87; Rose Sullivan 87,89,93; Theresa Morrissey 1888; Mary L. Keefe

1888,89,90; Mary Scofield 1891; Nellie Carroll 1892; Alice Carey 1891; Ella O'Neill 1894; Gertrude Gifford 1894,95; Mabel E. Westgate 1894.



*Duffy School. Back Row: left to right—Waunita Berger, Patsy Duffy, McNamara, Virgil Clodi, Lucy McGinnis, teacher, Velma Hunt, Mary Alice McGinnis, Doris Hunt, Elaine Hunt; Bottom Row: Jimmy Duffy, Jack McGinnis, Edward Meisenbach, Jr., Margaret Duffy, Arthur Collard, McNamara, Stanley Berger, McNamara.*

*Courtesy Mrs. Ted Zeller*



*"Beardsley" School No. 8 SW corner Section 27. Date of Photo—About 1906. Teacher: Miss Meda Snyder. Back Row: Miss Snyder, Gertrude Brown, Warren Overright, Alice Overright Clark, Alta Hendrix Corcoran, ?: Second Row: ?, Gladys Bibler, Grace Snyder (far right); Third Row: George Hendrix, Izora Toft, Frieda Snyder, Josephine Hendrix, Emma Balgeman Wrede, McKinley (Tim) Hendrix; Fourth Row: Clint Jackson (behind bell), Arthur Balgeman, Sybil Bibler (wearing locket), Frank Sumner, John Jackson, Clara Balgeman Hines; Front Row: Lloyd Snyder (with rows of buttons), Marie Snyder Gregorson, and Ralph Snyder.*

*Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Warren Overright*

**DISTRICT NO. 8**—Located on land owned by R. Beardsley in 1873. Section 27.

Early directors: W. V. States 1878; William Hendrix 1885; L. G. Nutt 1891; W. O. Brown 1894; P. W. Worth 1892; Geo. McNamee 1892, '95; G. H. Carpenter 1892, '93; R. W. Beardsley 1877; M. Misenbach 1878; H. B. States 1879; Wm. S. Potter 1885; M. F. Campbell 1886; Theodore Armstrong 1887; Geo. W. Lowden 1889, '94; R. Nutt 1895.

Teachers: Jennie Fleming 1878, '79, '80; JR Neer 1880; Ella Montague 1880, '81; Ella Stover 1881; Jessie Fleming 1881; Henry Randall 1881, '82, '83, '85, '86; Emma M. Collins 1883, '84; Mrs. J. N. H. Walters 1884; O. F. McKim 1884, '85; Gerty Randall 1884, '85, '86, '87, '88; Hattie Kellogg 1886, '87; Luella L. Mann 1887, '88; L. G. Nutt 1887, '88; Christina McKay 1888; Orah Record 1888; Hattie Cornwell.

Dec. 5, 1884—J. H. Armitage was paid \$2.15 for hauling coal to new schoolhouse.



Nutt School No. 9 SW corner Section 25. Date of Photo—1899. Teacher—Miss Meda Snyder. Back Row: Warren Overright, Harry Hosier, ?, Ray Hosier, Meda Snyder; Second Row: ?, Tina Isaacson, Harriet Isaacson, Roland Hosier, Ted Hosier, Ollie Isaacson; Front Row: Art Hosier, Abe Isaacson, ?, Frieda Snyder, Alice Overright Clark, Katie Hosier.  
Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Ray Clark

#### **DISTRICT NO. 9**

Early directors: J. R. Neer 1879; Sidney Mallory 1887, '88; Robert Hunter 1892; Sam Heather 1892; Wm. J. Nutt 1892; C. W. Fulford 1877; Geo. Hollenbeck 1879; D. A. Montague 1879; T. M. Walters 1880; W. H. Van Doren 1880; Thomas Clark 1886, 1887, '95; Frank Hosier 1886, 1893; Lars Shelly (Chally) 1889; John Geo. Obrecht 1894.

Teachers: Geo. Van Dorn 1878; Lottie Ketcham 1879; C. J. Culver 1879; Adie Smith 1879, '80; Jessie B. Mather 1880; Laura Colby 1881; J. W. Bartholomew 1881; Geo. W. Stover 1882; Hattie M. Kellogg 1882, '85, '86; J. Nett Van Dusan 1883; Gertie L. Randall 1883; Mrs. Westgate 1884; Ella Moran

1884; Mrs. W. B. Walters 1884, '85; Nellie Lamb 1885; Lee Nutt 1886, '87; Nancy Penry 1887; Oretta Brown 1888; Nettie Brown 1888, '89; Orah Record 1888, '89; Clara Van Doren 1889, '90, '91, '93; Dora Nutt 1891; Julia Ewing 1892; Rhoda Hunter 1892, '93, '94; L. L. Rice 1894; Ella Neer 1895.



Nutt School No. 9 NE corner of Section 35. Date of Photo—about 1930. Teacher: Mrs. Hazel Nutt, back row. Back Row: Leo Feller, Luella Witheft, Frances Odell, Leora Clark, Rita Feller, Doris Clark, Delores Odell, Vervyl Nutt; Front Row: Elmer Berger, Lavern Odell, Genevieve Feller, Beulah Clark, Norma Odell, Alice Crawford, Margaret Feller, Donald Odell.

Photo Courtesy of Vervyl Nutt



Grimwood School No. 1, SE corner Section 2. Girls are Adeline Winterroth and Margaret Ohrt.  
Photo Courtesy of MM Louis Boyd



Gifford School No. 2 NE corner Section 9 District 150. Date of Photo—1943. Teacher—Miss Amelia Majorowicz. Back Row: Karl Weir, Violetta Kersch Kenneth Geiger, Miss Majorowicz; Front Row: Robert Meadows, Alice Weaver, Joie Kersch, Dolores Kersch.

Photo Courtesy of MM Alvin Gaus



Colton School No. 3, SE Corner of Section 6, District 151. Date of Photo—May 24, 1934. Clara Mae Hendricks, Mary Ruth Christ, Francis Sargeant, Leroy Majorowicz, and John Christ.

Photo Courtesy of Miss Amelia Majorowicz



Reddick High School—Class of 1933, taken 1932. Back Row: James Halpin, Marion Lawless, Donald White, Walter Mortenson, Arthur Voigt, Floyd Rohman, Ralph Fieldman, Roy Zeller, Vernon Bossert, Frank Fecke, Willard Bossert, William Groenwald; Center Row: Glenn Mateska, Jane Towns, Helen Cook, Freda Siemetz, Dorothy Grob, Mae Thompson, Genevieve Ewing, Kathryn Dixon, Erna Christensen, Rita Larkin, Lois Dennison, teacher; Arvilla Yeager, Melvin Tavares; Bottom Row: Leona Thomason, Elaine White, Adeline Gersman, O. A. Towns, Principal; Irma Unz, teacher; Mary Ralph, Emma Christensen, Nora Lauritzen, Marvella Lockwood, Adeline Patchett.

Courtesy Mrs. LaVerne King

A TYPICAL YEAR'S EXPENSES FOR ONE DISTRICT, 5, IN 1885, 6, & 7

DATE	PAYEE	FOR	AMOUNT
1- 2-85	Paid Mr. L. C. Oulmann	for order book, stove pipe & elbow	\$3.05
1-30-85	Libbie Sumner	for teaching	35.00
2-26-85	Libbie Sumner	for teaching	35.00
3- 7-85	Libbie Sumner	for teaching	35.00
4-25-85	Walter D. Monteith	for cleaning S.H.	2.50
6-30-85	Chester Metcalf	for teaching	50.00
8- 7-85	Chester Metcalf	for teaching	40.00
10-15-85	Walter D. Monteith	for coal & Hauling	10.80
12-14-85	Walter Hendrix	for glass, chalk, tacks	.85
12-19-85	Nancy Penry	for teaching	30.00
1-30-86	Nancy Penry	for teaching	30.00
3-13-86	Edrick Reed	Coal, hauling coal & broom	1.50
3-17-86	N. E. Smith	for building fires	5.00
3-22-85	Nancy Penry	for teaching	60.00
5- 6-86	H. Engles	for cleaning & Whitewashing S.H.	5.00
6- 5-86	Walter Hendrix	for lock	1.00
6- 7-86	George Hendrix	for building fires	.75
7-16-86	Ada Beardsley	for teaching	56.00
8- 5-86	W. L. Hendrix	for broom & chalk	1.95
9-21-86	Henry Engles	for hauling coal	2.31
9-25-86	Wm. Potter	for coal	7.74
11-13-86	Cora Randall	for teaching	56.50
2-14-87	P. W. Worth	for school sundries	2.30
3- 5-87	Cora Randall	for teaching	105.00
6-13-87	Beardsley & Elliott	for lumber	11.43
6-20-87	P. A. Peterson	for building & Rep. Outhouse	12.00
7- 2-87	Eunice Reed	for teaching	50.00
7-14-87	P. W. Worth	for nails, paint, hinges, broom, chalk & latches	4.75
9-14-87	C. R. Nutt	for cleaning S.H., 3 tons coal and hauling	11.60
11-10-87	Emma Reed	for teaching	62.50

### TYPICAL ONE ROOM SCHOOL SCHEDULE

9:00- 9:10	Opening Exercises—singing, reading book, marching, etc.		
9:10- 9:20	First Reading	9:50	Fifth Arithmetic
9:20	Second Arithmetic	10:00	Sixth Arithmetic
9:30	Third Arithmetic	10:10	Seventh Arithmetic
9:40	Fourth Arithmetic	10:20	Eighth Arithmetic
10:30-10:45	RECESS		
10:45	First Arithmetic	11:25	Fifth Reading
10:55	Second Reading	11:35	Sixth Reading
11:05	Third Reading	11:45	Seventh-Eighth Reading
11:15	Fourth Reading		
12:00- 1:00	NOON RECESS		
1:00	First Reading	1:50	Sixth English
1:10	Second English	2:00	Seventh English
1:20	Third English	2:10	Eighth English
1:30	Fourth English	2:20	Spelling—Orthography
1:40	Fifth English	Writing 10 minutes per day instead of one of the English classes.	
2:30- 2:45	RECESS—Physical Education		
2:45	First and Second Story Telling		
3:00	Third Social Studies		
3:10	Fourth Social Studies		
3:20	Fifth Geography (Mon. & Wed.) Physiology (Tues. & Thurs.)		
3:30	Sixth Geography (Mon. & Wed.) Physiology (Tues. & Thurs.)		
3:40	Seventh Geography (M. & W.) Physiology (T. & Th.) Civics		
3:50	Eighth Geography (M. & W.) Physiology (T. & Th.) Civics		

The last hour on Fridays was used for handcrafts and art work. The teacher also served as music teacher, art teacher, janitor, playground supervisor (and often participant), program chairperson, disciplinarian, lunch supervisor, mice catcher, etc. etc.

School number eight located 3/4 mile southwest of Buckingham was destroyed by the November 11, 1911 tornado. It was never rebuilt. Instead, the pupils went to the school in the village of Buckingham which was a two-room, two-story frame building with a large porch built in 1884. For a few years, this building also served as a High School. Of the Class of 1901 pictured here, we have been able to identify only Bessie and Louise Armitage.



*Photo of 1901 High School Class taken at Buckingham School.  
Courtesy of Mrs. John Rathman*

In 1930, this building was torn down and the present brick building with two rooms and two recreation rooms was built. Clara Heinis donated an ample amount of land for the use of the school as a playground. Arthur Balgeman, Wm. Fredericks, and Warren Overright were the directors at this time. In 1958, a third classroom was added. The east

basement room was fitted to serve as a cafeteria with lunches provided by canteen service from Herscher.



*Buckingham Grade School—old wooden building with porch.  
Date of Photo—1918. Teacher: Miss Murray (back of  
children). Back Row: Nellie Kent, Alma Gross, Lillian Randall,  
Louise Snyder, Frances Kenney, Gladys Urbain; Second Row:  
Adeline Armitage, Ruth Prussner, Elvira Sumner, Agnes  
Nelson, Earl Huntley, Art Randall; Seated: Raymond Lamb,  
Lazern Crydenwise, Russell Preston, and Roy Huntley.  
Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Willard Essington*

Until 1946, the organization of the schools in the area remained very much the same with the High School at Herscher and the elementary schools at Bonfield, Buckingham, Herscher, and over 40 one-room schools. Between 1946 and 1948, a sudden reorganization took place with all of these elementary schools being consolidated into four districts using the existing buildings in Bonfield, Buckingham, and Herscher and a new building at Limestone which was completed in 1948.

The next step which established the present Unit 2 District followed quickly in 1949 when the four consolidated districts combined with the High School into a Unit district of twelve grades.

Since 1970 only grades 1–4 are taught in Buckingham with pupils bussed to Herscher for Kindergarten and grades 5–12. Mrs. Edward Rieke has 24 pupils in grades 1 & 2; Mrs. Sharon Kidd has 17 in Grades 3 & 4.

School District #1 was located on the southwest corner of Section 1.

In 1910 District #1 (Norton) was combined with an Essex Township district that adjoined it, and the school house was then located on Illinois Route 17 just east of the Union Hill road. It was designated

District #140. It was a two room building, the west room having six grades, and the east room grades seven and eight and two years of high school. When the high school was discontinued, each room served four grades. With the formation of R.U.C.E. Community Unit District, the building was used as an attendance center for a time before all students were taken to Reddick.

*Buckingham Grade School—present brick building. Date of Photo—1934. Teacher—Mrs. Arthur Nutt (Hazel) behind children. Back Row: Bruce Crane, Mary McNamara, Genevieve Motzig Berger, Alice Murphy, Hazel Nutt (teacher), Dale Hosier, Vernon Clark; Second Row: Dean McNamara, Joe Wadleigh, Francis Clark, Marwood Hendrix, Junior Nutt, Victor Hendrix; Third Row: Laura Louise Guitner Alvinia Balgeman Berger, Ruth McClintock, Mildred Clemans, Pauline Cook, Verna Hockett; Front Row: Glenn Cays, Paul McNamara, Loren Henry, Stanley Berger, and Paul Tuntland. Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Eldon Berger*



# VI

## Cemeteries

### COLMAN CEMETERY

The beginning of this cemetery was a township burying ground where anyone in the township might bury their dead. There was no specified caretaker, and it soon grew up to weeds. Mrs. Semer (Alice) Colman, Mrs. John (Kate) Schott, and possibly Dan Wepprechrt, brother of Mrs. Schott, were instrumental in forming an association to care for it. The association needed a name and the Colman family, being nearby residents, allowed their name to be used. Harold Colman recalls hearing that in the early days of the township it was the only dry place that could be found in the area, and stone boats were used to take the caskets up to the higher ground for burial. Alice Crawford, wife of Thomas Crawford, who died in 1870 may have been one of the first persons buried in Colman Cemetery.

One stone marking the grave of Leslie W., son of J. & M. Smith, who died July 22, possibly 1865, aged 1 year, 1 month and 11 days, might be the oldest stone intact, although the date is so worn one can not be certain.

Sarah L., daughter of L. & E. Reed (Lewis and Eliza) died February 2, 1868, aged 1 year, 3 months, 1 day, is one of the very early stones with the following interesting inscription:

"Sleep on sweet Sarah  
And take thy rest  
God called thee home  
He thought it best."

Three children of Dr. and Mrs. Seymour Bateman who died in April 1875 are interred in the same grave. They were victims of an epidemic. Burial was made in April, but a *Kankakee Gazette* item from Norton June 3, 1875 states: "Rev. Mr. Rutledge preached the funeral services of the children of Dr. Bateman last Sunday. The sermon was very appropriate and was listened to by a large audience." This funeral service was held in Brown's Church. The Bateman family once had a house in Pogsonville, but in 1878 bought the farm of John Willis in Section 10. Mrs. Bateman was a sister of William S. Potter of

Buckingham.

There have been various arrangements for caretaking. The Schott, Colman and Wepprechrt families have contributed much. During the Depression years lot owners were to take turns caring for the cemetery. For many years the Fred Wepprechrt, Jr. family have been in charge.

Names taken from records of the Cemetery Association and grave markers include: Hendrix, Eastwood, Smith, McKinley, Colman, Morenos, Flanagan, Wardell, Goodrich, Shoop, Houghton, Hollome, Baker, White, Iffland, Cook, Van Voorst, Phelps, Shrout, Coles, Brown, King, Bateman, Potter, Meleng, Patterson, Dornburg, Schott, Reed, Jeffers, Ellsworth, Clempson or Klengson, Larson, Hodge, Benema, Baggs, Geiger, Wepprechrt, Dittus, Crawford, Dean, Cooper.

In 1908 the Township of Norton deeded to Colman Cemetery Association the plot of ground occupied and used by Colman Cemetery.

### ELDREDGEVILLE CEMETERY

On Sept. 22, 1897, a meeting was called to order by A. T. Anderson for the purpose of organizing a Cemetery Association to procure the Eldredgeville Cemetery Lot and to maintain and improve the same. Those present were George McNamee who was chosen chairman, J. W. Fleming, Theodore Wadleigh, C. L. Woods, Chris Christopher, and A. T. Anderson who was chosen to be the secretary. On Nov. 25, by-laws for the association were drafted and adopted. The Secretary was then instructed to see to the recording of the Certificate of Corporation and to see to the procuring of the deed from the county for the cemetery lot which was donated by Don Bush. Mr. Wm. Grimwood gave a beautiful curved metal sign with the name of the cemetery written with metal letters. This sign was taken by persons unknown in the summer of 1975.

On Dec. 6, 1898, Mr. Anderson and Theo. Wadleigh were empowered to engage a sexton to care for the grounds and soon Mr. G. A. Hubbard was employed for the year at \$1.50 per each day spent

caring for the cemetery.

On Oct. 6, 1900, the cemetery was enlarged. This same year a notation was made of \$1.85 spent for flower seeds. Mrs. Earl Gross, the present Secretary of the Cemetery Association who with her late husband donated many hours of loving care to the cemetery grounds, remembers the beauty of the lot with its many flowers over the years.

In 1902, the price set to dig a grave was \$3 with a raise to \$4 in 1906.

Surnames taken from gravestone—Eldredgeville Cemetery:

Ayres, Rogers, Cook, Peck, Hoyt, Preston, Lowdon, Addicott, Glass, Fleming, Grimwood, Larson, Hubbard, Thompson, Blanchette, Johnson, Watson, Brown, Bouk, Wood, McNamee, Bartletts, Overright, Manchester, Havens, Evans, Brooks, Crydenwise, Cook, Yates, Bliss, Cluff, Eldred, Blair, Carnahan, Ifland, Piper, Clark, Carpenter, Burch, Ward, Cox, Murphy, Porter, Adams, Baird, Hendrix, George, Bush, Armitage, Sumner, Hoch, Townsend, Nutt, Bowers, Randles, Van Doren, Clemans, Reed, Fritz, Wadleigh, Snyder, Smith, Oehme, Christopher, Davis, Robinson, Nicholson, Smeaton, Dean, Aldrich, Rogers, Munger, Streeter, Webster, Bullock, Alford, Hughes, Hosier, Tolle, Hall, Hawkins, Overwright, Padley, Farley, Foster, Guiltner, Anderson, Johnson, Thompson.

#### SMITH CEMETERY

Mrs. Howard Dunn of Reddick, a granddaughter of Thomas Glass, remembers that when the Thomas Glass baby died, there was no graveyard available for burial nearby so little Archie was interred in a fence row under a lilac bush. The lilac bush died so the exact location of this grave is not known. This situation prompted the setting aside of land in Section 32 for burial which until 1874 was called the Union Cemetery. George W. Stover was the first Secretary of the Union Cemetery Association with those present at the first meeting including W. Colton, J. Walters, Job McNamee, W. Hendrix, J. A. Hackett, M. F. Campbell, Geo. Stover, H. B. States, T. W. Smith, W. Marvin, and J. T. VanderVoort. Early burials are those of Eliza Marvin, 11 year old Lucy Jane Glass in 1855, J. Eckel in 1862, and Mrs. C. Ferguson in 1869. This is a community cemetery with paupers, Protestants, and an unnamed mother with her three children all lying side by side.

Theodore and Joseph Smith owned the land surrounding the cemetery and in 1874 gave the Association a quit claim deed for the burial plot for \$1.00. From this time, this has been known as the Smith Cemetery. Later O. J. Patchett donated additional land for the east part or new part of the cemetery.

In November of 1911, L. C. Looker was paid

\$43.10 for a survey of the ground. Money was allotted for the recording of the deed and the buying of necessary stamps but no record of any cemetery in Section 32 can be found in the Kankakee Courthouse. The case is now being reviewed in Springfield.

Since 1923, there have been no board meetings. Although the By-Laws stipulate that "all descendants be taxed according to means" for the upkeep of the plots, there has been no designated caretaker for many years. Gene Webster and his family have donated many hours of labor mowing weeds and caring for this old cemetery.

#### "QUARTERLY MEETINGS"

One of the earliest schoolhouse meeting places in this vicinity was in the school located near the present site of the Smith cemetery (where later the Duffy school stood). Mrs. Ella Beardsley, a member of the well known pioneer States family, when she was interviewed by L. L. Henry for his story "Methodism since Inception" written for the November 9, 1933 *Herscher Pilot* remembered the preparations made for the "QUARTERLY MEETINGS" when the presiding Elder visited and the day was spent in services. Hospitality was extended to all attendants at these services by the families living nearby. For a time a BAPTIST preacher also held services here, one congregation meeting in the forenoon and the other in the afternoon. The meetings were enlivened by one preacher's spirited attacks on the doctrines of the other. The Baptist movement died out, however, about 1874.

Among the names on the grave markers in the Smith Cemetery are the following:

Teague, Traylor, Thorson, Patchett, Webster, Kellogg, Robinson, Hendrix, Potter, Elliott, Beutler, Mateska, Perkins, Weeks, Carpenter, Eckel, Keenan, Truex, West—, Penry, States, Monteith, Smith, Beardsley, Armstrong, Bratten, Munger, Myers, Cassidy, VanDoren, Pierce, Wright, Sawyer, French, Glass, Gir—, Lewis, Ulrich, Dittrich, Hobbs, Badgley, Barrett, Campbell, Gibson, Randall, Griffin, McLaughlin, Capelin, Ingles, King, Shurtliff, Insgho, Townsend, Hunt, Dunn, Shumway, Walters, Marvin, Esser, Hull.

Mount Hope Cemetery just east of Cabery on the county line road has apparently always been privately owned. It is believed that a child of the Bouk family was the first person buried there. Later the Rogers family, probably the owners of the cemetery, erected a small mausoleum and some members of that family are buried there. Thomas Turner, grandfather of Ruth Turner Varney was the second person buried in Mt. Hope. The cemetery had not been maintained too well at the time it was purchased by Lyden Turner of Cabery. After the

purchase he also acted as sexton. When Mr. Turner grew older and could no longer maintain it as well as he would have liked, the cemetery was sold to James Scott, a Pontiac resident. At present a board of trustees of local men, George Christ, Stephen Clapp and Richard Colthurst oversee the maintenance of the cemetery.

Surnames taken from gravestone and cemetery records:

Hoch, Hoos, Benson, Koerber, Basham, Wilson, Pen, Gebhart, Whalen, Casey, Darmon, Hoss, Fagan, Essington, Sargeant, Nicholson, Miller, Gifford,

Aldrich, Beatty, Thompson, Kirk, Christ, Bagg, McCullough, Nelson, Drew, Essington, Cloos, Dally, Slater, Jack, Barham, Shelby, Quayle, Murphy, Kierce, Robinson, Myers, Metzke, Turner, Porter, Colthurst, Bouk, Veysey, Sadler, Clapp, Hempler, Spies, Hughes, Hiddleston, George, Wright, Anderson, Nutt, Waldschmidt, Baer, Clayton, Trusler, Christopher, Hummel, Hettler, Leadingham, Keyes, Persel, Reising, Ravenskilde, Rogers, Merrill, Johnson, Dally, Canham, Borer, Hanson, Peace, Peterson, Raab, Watkins, Dorman, Bishop, Martin.

## VII

# Village of Buckingham

### GRAND PRAIRIE AND NORTON POST OFFICES

The Grand Prairie Post Office with Job Williams running it was established Jan. 17, 1855 and discontinued April 13, 1860. This place, later known as Norton Village, was located about 3/4 mile northwest of the present site of Buckingham. In 1976, one can still see parts of a foundation and a grove of trees on the north side of Route 115 at the spot. This village consisted of a blacksmith shop, postoffice, and some farm buildings. Mail came by Pony Express from Momence, Illinois.

The location of Norton Post Office is noted on the 1873 map and the June 3, 1875 *Gazette* ran the following item: "Patronize home institutions by buying postage stamps at your own office. Our postmaster is working on a percentage now. He gets an increase of salary for last year. He gets \$71 instead of \$27—not bad to take." The March 9 *Gazette* under the Norton heading states: "Roads are in bad condition. Uncle Joe, our faithful old mail carrier, made about half his route by 9 o'clock Tuesday night." In June of 1878, Geo. Williams is listed as Post Master. By Nov. 21, 1878, there were two mails per day.

By January 2, 1879, the area had two postoffices with Mr. Williams running the Norton office and Mrs. Annie Conrow, the Buckingham. An agent of the Post Office Department came to straighten the matter and the *Gazette* of Feb. 20, 1879 ran this item from Buckingham: "Our Post Office is in a worse condition than ever. Mrs. Conrow received orders to take charge of the Norton office, which she did on Saturday. In a short time there were several petitions for different aspirants for the office. Mrs. Conrow has resigned. The majority are still in favor of Mr. Williams. For some reason he has been removed regardless of the many petitions sent to headquarters."

The business of the postoffice was carried on in various buildings in Buckingham—usually in part of a general store—until August, 1961 when the U.S. Government began leasing a brick building on the

corner of Elm and Railroad from Gilbert Van Voorst.

The postmasters have been:

Mrs. Annie E. Conrow	Nov. 26, 1878
George B. McNamee	July 29, 1893
Levi G. Nutt	July 30, 1897
Grant Preston	July 23, 1901
Wm. B. Hosier	Jan. 7, 1908
E. F. Glass	Nov. 9, 1911
Francis E. Munson	March 1, 1943 (Assumed charge)
	March 10, 1943 (acting)
Wm. T. O'Brien	Dec. 31, 1944
Floyd J. Wesemann	July 31, 1962 (assumed charge) Sept. 30, 1963 (confirmed)

Rural Route #1 from Buckingham was established June 1, 1904 with the following carriers and their period of service as follows according to information we have been given:

Oliver H. Allison	6-01-04 to 6-30-10
Charles M. Preston	7-01-10 to 2-28-29
Orlin Hendrix (full time sub.)	2-29-29 to 9-10-30
Harry Guiltner	9-10-30 to 1942 approximately
Edward Hamilton	approximately 1942 to 1948
Ross Butler	1948

and the present carrier Orlin Hendrix began service as substitute carrier Feb. 28, 1928. Joe Bajt was the substitute carrier for the year 1965. C. O. Hartman is the present substitute carrier, having begun this service in 1966.

### FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS

In 1875, the Fourth was celebrated at King's Grove (formerly Cook's) with a picnic and a ball game between the Union Hill boys and the Modocs of Pogsonville. The Rev. Mr. Van Doren delivered an oration. Many played croquet. During an afternoon thundershower, lightning struck the stable of Mr. Banks killing his horse and burning the stable.

On July 5th, there was a basket picnic and dancing both afternoon and evening at the George

Lewis grove (Glass settlement on land now owned by Everett Mau). Before a large crowd, the plough boys of Cabery got beaten in a game of baseball by a group from Sugar Loaf.

#### GOOD TEMPLAR LODGE

The plat of 1873 shows the building of the Good Templar Lodge on the property of B. J. King, Section 24. An Aug. 26, 1875 *Gazette* item from Norton mentions that "a large congregation assembled at the temperance hall to listen to the farewell sermon of Rev. Chas. Hunt."

#### POGSONVILLE

A "Ghost Town" of this township is Pogsonville which was located in Section 14. The grove of trees in the area was removed only a few years ago. Eldon Colman recalls a great-aunt telling of several houses being there and news from Norton in the *Kankakee Gazette* of 1875 confirms its existence:

Feb. 11—Clarke Beebe has closed his shop at Pogsonville and gone to Putnam County to locate if he likes it there.

Mar. 4—Clarke Beebe has returned and is again making the anvil sing in Pogsonville.

Oct. 11, 1877—Dr. Bateman is about buying Sam Foster's farm at \$300 per acre. He intends moving his house in Pogsonville on it.

Dec. 24, 1874—(A tongue-in-cheek item) Captain Jenks (another correspondent) keeps well informed on what transpires in Pogsonville but doesn't seem to have noticed the greatest piece of mechanism the town can boast of. It answers for gong, town clock, dinner and supper horn. You can go to bed by it and get up by it. I will not try to enumerate the different uses you can put it to, but it is the braying of Wilson's Jack.

#### BROWN CHURCH

Near Pogsonville on the Brown farm 2½ miles north of where Buckingham now is, the first church building appeared, this having been a remodeled schoolhouse. On May 7, 1874, the 3rd quarterly meeting of the ME church was held at the Brown church with a large congregation present. The Rev. Mr. Deuch was assisted by the minister of the Gardner church. On May 21, a Sabbath school was organized with B. L. Cornwell elected as Superintendent; Assistant, Roland Brown; Secretary, H. W. Montieth; librarian, H. Randall; Treasurer, Miss Emma Brown; and choirester, Chas. Wilson. The 1875 *Kankakee Gazette* ran the following items:

July 15—Rev. Mr. Rutledge had his hands full last Sabbath morning at Brown's

Church. He had to preach a funeral sermon for a child of Alonzo White and a missionary sermon beside taking in members in full connection.

Aug. 19—The funeral services of Alice Crawford were held in Brown's Church. Rev. C. Hunt of the W.M. Church preached.

Aug. 26—"Are you going to Camp Meeting?" is the leading question. If the roads keep good Norton will be well represented. (Note: Camp Meetings were in Kankakee with ministers from various counties, states, and denominations. The first one was held in August of 1873.) All the young gents are trying to get buggies for the 29th.

Sept. 2—Mr. Myron Wilcox of Pilot filled an appointment at Brown's Church last Sunday evening.

Jan. 1878—Rev. Flowers gave us his views of future punishment.

The Brown Church building was moved to Buckingham in 1881 and still stands on Elm Street having been converted into a dwelling.

#### NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

The first meeting of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation on Grand Prairie was held Sept. 17, 1867 in the township of Norton, the services held in their native language by Rev. Esbrem who remained with them until May 6, 1869 when he was succeeded by Rev. A. Christian Olson. In 1881 and 1882, they built a 32x46 foot church with a spire 73 feet in height in Section 31 of Pilot.

#### ELDRIDGEVILLE CHURCH

The Methodist congregation at Eldridgeville began meeting in a schoolhouse in 1867 with the Rev. Collins as the first preacher. David Bullock was the first S.S. Superintendent and the first trustees were John Eldredge, David Bullock, James Bowlby, and Mr. Shefler.

On March 31, 1873, Nelson Adams and Jane, his wife, deeded to the trustees of the Eldridgeville Methodist Church the plot of ground on which the church and parsonage were built in the same year. In the fall of that year, a young preacher was sent there on his first charge, the Rev. J. D. Calhoun who died in 1924. He served this church, the Brown Church, and a congregation meeting in a schoolhouse about ½ mile north of the former Union Hill School (in 1976, The Hill—a tavern) and possibly other neighborhood meeting places. The Revs. J. Flowers, J. Wilson, and J. Bell followed at this charge. Among the families identified with the church were the Adams, the Grimwoods, the Prestons, the Van Dorens, the Cooks,

and the Flemings.

The church flourished until 1882 when the coming of the railroad led to a realignment of Methodism. The Eldredgeville Church was moved to Herscher where it served the ME Congregation there for many years. Later, the building was occupied as a hardware store by Lochner and Amidon, then a grocery store, and finally removed to make room for the Herscher Medical Building.



*Old Eldredgeville Church on E. side of Main Street in Herscher.  
Photo courtesy of Russell Mau*



*Eldredgeville parsonage, later Mahood home.  
Photo courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Ramsey*

A considerable part of the congregation went to Buckingham. In 1888, the trustees purchased a lot from Ebenezer Buckingham for \$45 and moved the parsonage to a lot directly south of the present ME church across the alley where a portion of it still

stands. It was partially destroyed by fire at one time. It served as the parsonage until 1899. At the time the above picture was taken, it was owned by the Mahood family—Mary, Ruth, and Mrs. Mahood are posing here.

#### NORTON SEWING SOCIETY

The Norton Sewing Society met at the home of Mr. Joseph Smith on Feb. 4, 1873 and organized by appointing Mrs. Elizabeth Wells, President; Mrs. Mary Webster, Vice-President; Martha States, Secretary; Mrs. Margaret Campbell, Treasurer; and Mrs. Mary Walters, Mary Smith, and Martha Smith, Directors.

The members of the Norton Sewing Society on April 23, 1874 were: Mrs. T. H. Smith, Mary Webster, Mary Smith, Mary States, Katie States, Ella Barott, Henry Carpenter, Matt C. Stover, Margaret Campbell, Libbie Armstrong, Corie Servis, LaVera Wells, Grace Armstrong, Emily Goodspeed, Miss Gill, Cassie Armstrong, Junie Carpenter, Diantha Brigg, Mary States, Esther Pratt, Mary Walters, M. Vandervort.

Regulations for supper stipulated one kind of meat, either tea or coffee, either pickles or cheese, bread and butter, one kind of cake, one kind of sauce and anyone having more was to pay a fine of ten cents for the benefit of the Society.

On March 20, 1878, the Society voted to buy the church lot for purposes of said Society and the vote was unanimous. Paid on same, \$19.

When one notes in the Treasurer's report the number of spools of thread used and the number of yards of duck, gingham, print, "denning," ticking, and calico bought it seems that the ladies must have made the needles fly.

R. C. Breese received of the Norton Society to sell 6 shirts—50¢ and 9 pair overalls—75¢.

On October 21, 1877, the Society met at the house of T. H. Smith for the purpose of closing the business of the Society and disbanding. The \$43.12 in the hands of the Treasurer was divided equally among the M.E., Wesleyan, and Baptist religious Societies. The notes in the little book indicate that the ladies continued their sewing and charitable work in the intervening years before re-organizing into The Ladies Aid Society.

#### LADIES AID SOCIETY

On April 3, 1888, the Ladies Aid Society met at the parsonage electing Mrs. Jessup, President; Mrs. T. H. Smith, 1st Vice-President; Mrs. Preston, 2nd Vice-President; Mrs. J. H. Hobbs, Secretary, and Mrs. H. S. Randall, Treasurer. The twenty members then enrolled worked on a quilt the patchwork of which was donated by Mrs. Hobbs.

Article 3 of the new constitution stated that "The object of this society shall be to plan and carry forward measures with a view to increase the general church fund and to apply in any way it may think

best." Article 10 reads: "The business meetings of this society shall be held at our several homes on Tuesday afternoon of each alternate week and shall be conducted just as the society may from time to time think best." A By-Law stated that any lady may become a member of this society by signing the constitution and paying five cents at each meeting. Also any gentleman may become an Honorary member by signing the constitution and paying ten cents at each meeting. By July, there were 38 members and 7 honorary members.

Projects for raising money included the making of many quilts, aprons, and sewing articles of clothing. Entertainments, chicken pie suppers, 5 o'clock teas, strawberry festivals, ice cream socials, oyster suppers, and lawn "sociables" were held.

On May 7, 1889, a plan was proposed for the starting of a church building fund. Also, the Society dues were increased from 5 to 10¢ for ladies and from 10 to 20¢ for gentlemen. A paper was circulated for pledges to which a number signed their names.

On Sept. 22, 1890, a special meeting was held to decide what amount should be paid from the Ladies Aid Treasury on the preacher's salary. The ladies thought they could also expend \$1.00 for a handbag for the minister's wife, Mrs. J. H. Hobbs. "Through the kindness of Dr. McLouth the handbag cost only 86¢ and the remaining 14¢ was spent for a small bottle of Primrose cologne which was placed in the handbag."

The last page of minutes in the little notebook is for Dec. 30, 1890. A motion carried that a committee of young ladies be appointed to make fancy work for the Fair. Said committee consisted of Linda Smith, Hattie Cornwell, and Ruth Jessup. Each member of that committee was to solicit articles for the fair.

#### HISTORY OF

#### BUCKINGHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

As in other parts of the country, the Circuit Rider followed very closely on the heels of the early settlers and the church and school were the first institutions planted in the new settlements.

Buckingham Church was organized in 1865 as a part of the Union Hill Circuit. One historian claims this part of the country was a part of the Onarga Circuit. Rev. I. H. Costler, a Circuit Rider, held services in schoolhouses and homes in thirteen appointments in 1864 and 1865.

In 1869, what is thought to have been the first church building in Norton Township appeared in a schoolhouse located on a plot beginning at a point 26 rods west of the NW corner of Section 15 in Town 30. It was leased by Samuel S. Randall to the "trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church" and a schoolhouse that had been built in 1867 on the Colman farm was purchased and moved to this

location. This "Brown's" Church appears to have been the direct parent of the Buckingham church.

When the railroad went through Buckingham, the area churches merged and it was then designated as the head of the circuit.

The "Buckingham Charge" first appears in the minutes of the old Central Illinois Conference in 1882. The first preacher assigned was the Rev. Joe Bell who came from the now discontinued Eldregeville Circuit; his congregation remained much the same even though he moved to Buckingham.

In 1888, the trustees were P. W. Worth, William Hosier, Dan Davis, William States, Henry Randall, Scott Armitage, and Edward Reed. The congregation was large and flourishing through these years and by the close of the century had outgrown the old church. In June 1898, the ground for the new church was purchased for \$175. As plans progressed, however, dissension arose in the congregation and a portion withdrew their membership and formed the Presbyterian church. They later restored their membership with the Methodist Church.

Under the leadership of the Rev. R. E. Bird, the trustees accepted lots of Narvey Anderson and his wife for the location of the new church. The trustees took title "for the use and benefit of the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church under an irrevocable warranty deed." The new church was dedicated on May 28, 1899 under the Rev. O. A. H. DeLaGardie. Others worked on the building, but the actual work of construction was in charge of Charles Preston and Scott Kellogg, the supervisors.

The first funeral to be held here was that of Mrs. Mary Preston. The first wedding was on Christmas Day, 1900, when Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Hendrix were married—a notation on the record says: "in the presence of 400 people." The last wedding was that of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Cochran.

On January 18, 1948, during services a spark from the chimney ignited the roof and the 49-year old structure burned to the foundation. No lives were lost.

Church services were then held in the basement of the Buckingham Grade School. One member is quoted as saying, "we have no church in this town and we cannot have a town without a church" so work began immediately to rebuild the church and progressed at a rapid rate with the help of many community people, mainly farmers. Henry Tuntland was chairman of the Board of Trustees and made a scale model of the church as he envisioned it would be. A stained glass window with the likeness of an open Bible was purchased by Berniece Reed and placed behind the pulpit. The new church was completed and dedicated Sunday, May 15, 1949.

The Buckingham Church has been part of a

two-church charge with Herscher for many years and is at present ably served by Rev. Robert Lawry and his wife, Elsa. Since the minister lives in Herscher, it became advisable to sell the parsonage in Buckingham. That occurred in 1970 and the money from the sale was placed in a reserve fund for the church.

Because of the retirement of ministers and the scarcity of new entrants into the ministry, it has become necessary for the smaller congregations in

#### M. E. CHURCH PASTORAL RECORD

J. D. Calhoun	1873-1876
J. A. Flowers	1876-1878
J. A. H. Wilson	1878-1879
Joe Bell	1879-1883
C. David	1883-1884
Wm. West	1884-1885
J. H. Hobbs	1885-1890
J. F. Barnett	1890-1893
S. F. Alford	1893-1898
R. E. Bird	1898-1899
Buckingham Church dedicated May 28, 1899	
O. A. H. DeLaGardie	1899-1901
John Small	1901-1906
E. F. Busby	1906-1908
Alfred Dixon	1908-1910
C. H. Cordes	1910-1914
A. H. Norhdurft	1914-1915
J. B. Speaker	1916-1917
U. Z. Gilmer	1917-1918
Wm. Henry Day	1918-1919
B. F. Eckley	1919-1920
Thos. Bartram	1920-1923
R. H. Muelder	1923-1926
Alfred E. Linfield	1926-1930
Dan Crane	1930-1935
G. P. Snedaker	1935-1939
John Decker	1939-1941
Ed Mehl	1941-1942
Franklin Harwood	1942-1954
Edward H. McKee	1954-1964
Retired 1965 (Emeritus)	
Frank Unger	1965-1969
Robert Lawry	1969-

The caption on this picture published in a July, 1963 Journal reads: For at least 40 years, "the quilters" of the Woman's Society of Christian Service of the Buckingham Methodist Church have met weekly to make quilts of all descriptions. One of few such groups remaining in the area, the quilters combine sociability with the practical work of making quilts. The hostess for the day provides refreshments and the women look forward to the weekly session. Seated, from left, are Mrs. Howard Burrow, Miss Katie Hosier and Miss Bernice Reed. Standing are Mrs. McKinley Hendrix, Mrs. George Kingsnorth, Mrs. Warren Overright, Mrs. John Rathman, Mrs. Violet Hosier, and Mrs. Amelia Urbain. They believe that quilting groups are a part of rural culture that should be retained.

this area to pool their resources to make their efforts more meaningful, so a Council of Ministries was begun in September of 1975 which involves ministers and lay people of five congregations, namely: Bonfield United Methodist, Bonfield Evangelical United Methodist, Grand Prairie United Methodist, Herscher United Methodist, and Buckingham United Methodist. At present the efforts seem worthwhile as some projects can be undertaken collectively which would be impossible alone.



Buckingham ME Church and parsonage. Church burned on Jan. 18, 1948.

Photo Courtesy of Miss Katie Hosier



## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Presbyterian Church of Buckingham was organized on October 13, 1898 with the following elders: H. Randall, H. Montieth, and Charles Boswell. The Rev. Louis Mitchell was the first pastor. The church building was completed in the early part of the winter and was dedicated December 18, 1898. The second pastor, the Rev. T. Quayle, served from 1900-1903 and was succeeded by the Rev. G. Young who resided in Herscher preaching there in the forenoon and in Buckingham in the afternoon. The church was out of debt and had a membership of 36 in the year 1905. The church building had a seating capacity of 250. The total amount expended for the year ending April 1, 1905 was \$442.

The congregation did not meet for too many years after this. The building was then used as a hall for the showing of movies, dancing, song festivals, etc.

## BUCKINGHAM



This collage of scenes in Buckingham circa 1909 includes pictures of the Woodman Hall and Lil Bibler's Hotel, the West Elevator, the Depot, Main Street, the M. E. Church, the old Schoolhouse, and two residential scenes.

Photo Courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Piper

In an article written by Alma Gross about 1928 when she was a correspondent for a Kankakee paper we find the following about the beginnings of Buckingham which is on the Marseilles moraine and at 655 feet elevation according to a marker at 2000W-700S.: "The abstracts covering the various conveyances of property now comprising the Village of Buckingham reveal that the United States in the latter part of the year 1854 conveyed Section 27 in Town 30 Range 9 to one Alex Campbell. In 1859, Campbell sold the entire section for the recorded price of \$950 to one Samuel Blair who in turn sold the section to James Dennison in 1868, this time for \$10,000 . . . Dennison then in the same year sold the

south half of the section for \$6,400 . . . the new owner was James Townsend who continued to hold at least the SE 1/4 of the section to the time of the projected Kankakee and Southwestern Railroad. Meantime, a brother, G. W. Townsend, had acquired property north of the present right-of-way of the railroad and in 1878, we find the Townsend brothers each deeding 15 acres of their respective tracts of land, one north and one south of the right-of-way, to Wm. K. Ackerman in trust for the Railroad Company. The consideration for these transfers was that they were to select the location for a station on the new railroad which they did.

"The railroad company then, in the same year, conveyed all the land not needed for the right-of-way purposes to Ebenezer Buckingham who evidently gave the town his name."

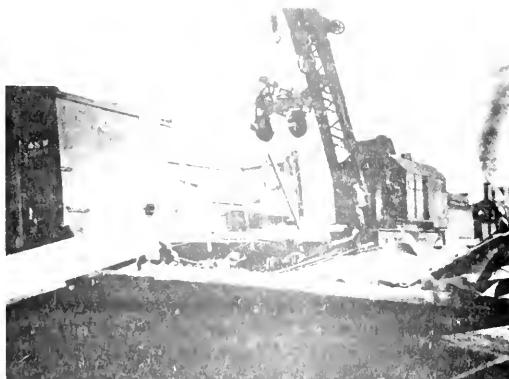
The scheme for getting a railroad was for each farmer to give \$1 for each acre of land he owned and in Feb., 1878 parties went out canvassing for that proposition. By May, the Norton committee had an offer from the Illinois Central to put the road through for \$35,000 and right-of-way. This was not quite \$1000 per mile for the proposed 36 miles of road which left the main line at Otto and thence ran west on the half-section line until it struck Buckingham when it turned southwesterly and left the county at Cabery. The company agreed to tie and iron the roads as fast as graded. By Sept. 5, 1878, the railroad men were busy laying the groundwork with "farmers taking hold and helping with all the force they can muster." Wm. Conrow was the projector of this southwestern branch of the Illinois Central Railroad having drawn and presented the plans which were finally executed. He, too, was of great assistance in the construction of the road. By Oct. 10, the depot, a warehouse, and stockyards with shutes were being built. Charlie Rolla had finished his store and Squire Montieth had his meat market completed. Sam Crawford, a "good boy who understands his business" came from Wilmington to be the telegraph operator. He was succeeded in 1882 by James Null who was "quite proficient" and from 1889 to 1899 was "numbered among Buckingham's worthy citizens." Some of the later depot agents were Wm. Kent, Glenn Shirley, Clark Kingsnorth, Clarence Duggin, Evelyn Anderson, Doris Kroesch, and Mr. McFadden. The depot building was taken down in 1965 or 1966 but for a few years preceding this was closed to service with C. O. Hartman hired to care for any necessary business at the station.

The railroad had an engine house (or roundhouse) just west of the junction of the main track with the Clarke City line with a little spur running out to it. This building burned about 1910. To the east of it were the coal bins and nearby was a

pit for the dumping of ashes. The branch to the coal fields of Clarke City in Essex Township was nearly 29 miles long with over three miles of sidetrack. It was built in 1882 without any public aid and had an assessed valuation for 1904 of \$114,125 paying a total tax for that year of \$3,825.87. It was removed in 1938.



*Photo of Water Tower and coal bins.  
Courtesy of Miss Katie Hosier*



*Photo of train wreck near Buckingham  
Photo courtesy of Miss Katie Hosier*

Not far from the engine house was a large water tower used for the storing of water taken on by the

steam locomotives. The reservoir now used by the Herscher Sportsman Club for fishing was the source of this water. John White was the last man to pump water from the reservoir into this tower. An electric pump with an automatic shut-off was then used until diesel locomotives replaced steam engines and the water tower was soon removed.

Nellie Nowack and others remember the fun they had in years gone by at skating parties on the reservoir. Bonfires were lit and a happy but cold time was had by groups from a great many surrounding towns. One wonders if snowmobiling will put an end to this healthy pastime!

In our summertime scene at the "rese" are pictured Charles Allison, Irma Allison Munson, and Myrtle Webster Dahn.



*Photo of Buckingham Reservoir.  
Courtesy of Mrs. Alvin West*

The Nov. 17, 1878 *Gazette* gives the following list of businesses in Buckingham where "the saw and hammer can be heard at almost any hour." On the north side of the railroad track commencing on the west side:

- R. C. Breese, groceries
- H. Hines, carpenter shop and furniture repair
- C. Rolla, groceries and dry goods
- W. Patterson, shoe shop
- W. Montieth, City Market—meats and groceries
- H. Randall, restaurant
- Geo. Newell, tin shop
- Dr. B. Farley, Physician (also sold paint)
- The Railroad company office & buildings

On the east side of the street:

- Drug Store soon to be occupied by parties from Streator

Wm. Conrow's office and residence  
Store soon to be filled with general stock

Thomas Crawford's building—Hotel

Back on the block north:

Mr. Ambrose's Blacksmith Shop

Frank Rard's residence

On the South side of the track commencing on the west end:

Stock Yards with Mr. E. Mather buying livestock  
Clark's Coal Shed

Enoch Colby's Warehouse—Colby is "handling a large amount of grain, about 800 bushels per day, the average."

The R.R. Station and American Express Office  
Capen & Co. Office and Warehouse trading in grain

On the next street:

George Loudon's large Blacksmith Shop

Colby and Capen & Co. corn cribs

On the next street:

Residence of Geo. Loudon

Residence of the gentlemen in Capen & Co.'s employ

Dr. Farley's residence

Mr. Loudon used 15 teams to move his house into town from Eldredgeville. Dr. Farley moved his house nine miles. Also, in 1878, Mr. Louis Oulmoun with others erected a warehouse with steam elevator and began a very successful business handling, in 1880, over \$100,000 worth of various grains. George Williams, in 1882, is listed as the blacksmith.

In 1879, Aleck Halpenny moved his harness shop from Piper City to Buckingham and William Conrow founded the village's newspaper known as the *Monitor* soon changed to *Norton News* and edited by Mr. VanDoren.

One Friday in November 1878, "about 200 left here on the excursion and went away as good natured as could be, but came back disgusted with excursions. They had too much Kankakee fire water aboard on their return. We don't mean our boys; we refer to the caps further south. Our better half went and says she enjoyed the trip. We believe the trip was made without accident thanks to the conductor and brakeman."

In 1879, P. W. Worth opened a hardware store in Mr. Conrow's building, formerly the cheese factory which had been built two years earlier a short distance from town and moved into town when the cheese factory discontinued after "discontent as to the way things have been conducted" and some withdrew patronage. There had been sales of cheese "a good article commanding a good price" at 10½¢ per pound. Next, the Buckingham Creamery building was owned by H. E. Schlegel who before 1899 had also erected a large brick store and owned a good

residence here. His brother Frederick assisted him. Schlegel's store later was used by Fred Glass for a grocery and Post Office and is seen in this picture as the large building in the center background. When



Haight & Mahood store with band marching  
Photo courtesy of Mrs. Othal Wilkins

Haight and Mahood sold out at the corner north of here, Fred Glass moved his stock into that building. Later Mr. and Mrs. Vervil Nutt and then Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Hartman sold groceries here. Mrs. W. Essington sold groceries for a short time in the building formerly used by Reed Bros. Hardware. The little building in the center of the picture was used as a doctor's office. In the picture below are Roy Haight, Robert Ratliff, Jack Rhodes, "Hat" Armstrong, and Tomie Urbain.



Reed Brothers Hardware  
Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Joe Urbain



#### Main Street of Buckingham

One resident of the community remembers this street as having the following businesses c. 1910: Haight and Mahood store, an open lot for town activities such as concerts, ice cream socials, etc. (The Bank Building was later built in this area), Hardware store, Randall Furniture and Undertaking Establishment (this building ran back to the alley and was later the McClintock home and Blacksmith Shop), Bank, and Barber Shop and Restaurant with the Post Office in a corner. Part of this same building was used for a school for a time.

Photo Courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Essington

An item in Norton Town Book No. 2 dated January 15, 1882 states:

"The Board of Health met and ordered Dr. F. L. Green to take charge of the *smallpox* patients in and near Reddick in the Town of Norton and also sent down flags to John Brophy's and Fred Brewster's quarantining both houses. Dr. Green rec'd. \$100 for six cases." Sixteen years later the same book noted that "Board of Health . . . composed of town Clerk, Geo. McNamee, and J. W. Fleming quarantined Oscar Clemans and family from public at large—a case of *diphtheria*—and had notice put up at residence and gave said Oscar Clemans due notice to not leave residence or allow others to enter his residence and cause others to be exposed to said disease." An entry the following day states, "By order of Dr. J. A. Brown, Board of Health met and caused quarantine to be put on Thos. Clark and family for being exposed to contagious disease, diphtheria, at Osc.. Clemans by visiting these when children were down with said disease . . . notice sent by messenger A. E. Gillispie." Dr. Brown later moved to Kankakee and became a very popular physician and surgeon. The Overright family remembers that Dr. Brown performed an appendectomy on seven year old Warren at home on the kitchen table. Dr. Scott practiced in town in 1886 and a Dr. Flexer in the 1890's. In 1932, there was a doctor living in the Geo. Berger house just south of the present Post Office.

Mr. Barton, a wagon maker, and Hiram M. Cook who was the proprietor of the Cook elevator and dealer in grain, coal, and tile moved from Eldredgeville to Buckingham in 1888. It was said that "Mr. Cook has done more to improve and build up the village of Buckingham than any other man and is considered one of its most valued citizens." He was the father of Joe Cook and the grandfather of Luther Cook.

Other businessmen in the late 1800's were:

Thomas Crawford, hotel keeper

Wm. Campbell, shopkeeper

Elliott & Beardsley—grain, lumber, coal, & farm implements

L. Oulman's Hardware

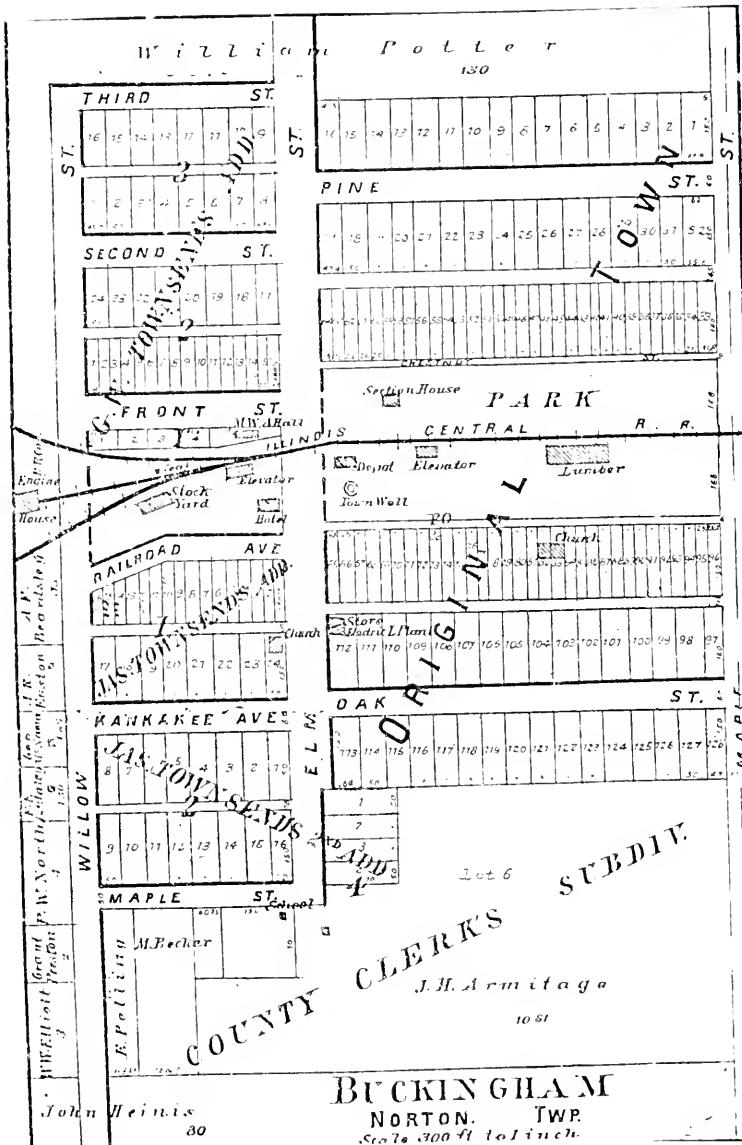
L. G. Nutt, drugstore

Mr. Asa Beardsley also purchased a corn sheller and engaged in corn shelling, bought and ran a threshing machine, engaged in the contracting business successfully, and bored wells for a time. Toll lines of the Central Telephone Company had been extended to Cabery and Buckingham by 1884, but versatile and resourceful people like Mr. Beardsley had installed a "telephone" by 1882—it consisted of two tin cans connected by a taut wire which provided communication between store and home.

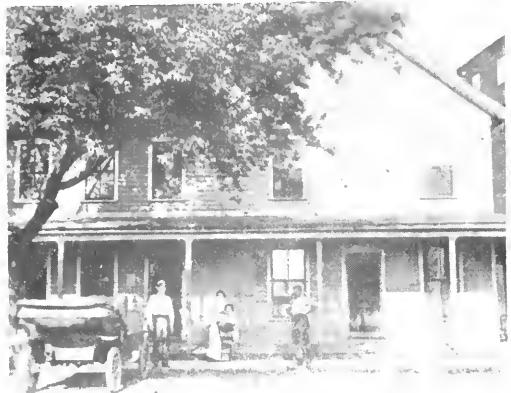
#### INCORPORATION

In 1902, the place was incorporated as the Village of Buckingham and "enough territory taken in to accommodate a city the size of Kankakee." The plot at this time took in parts of Sections 15, 22, 23, 26, 27, 34, and 35. In 1916, much of this acreage was removed leaving only land in Sections 26 and 27 in the village. J. M. Beveridge was the first president of the Village Board; C. P. Coleman was clerk; and trustees were G. Pelling, H. Snyder, C. Smith, John Nutt, Wm. Herscher, and Ben Randall.

In the early 1900's Randalls had a large furniture and undertaking establishment on Walnut Street. In the late '20's, Grover McClintock and his family moved into the building where he did blacksmithing. Peter Tuntland ran a confectionery selling ice cream, meats, and milk where the Lichtenberger's Tavern now stands. Many people still remember the "OLD STORE" with its board sidewalk and long porch in which the Joe Urbain family lived on the right side and on the left side had a grocery store. In its early days, the Amos Colman family ran a hotel here for railroad workers. Merlie Cook and Joe Heinis also ran stores in this large building. We found no S&H green stamps, but the Heller family found and loaned us a half-dollar sized token from which we made a rubbing. On one side is the lettering: "Good for \$1.00 in trade" and on the other "J. L. Heinis Buckingham, Ill." Pictured are Joe Urbain on the left, his wife, Amelia, and Elmer



Colthurst. The lady standing is unidentified.



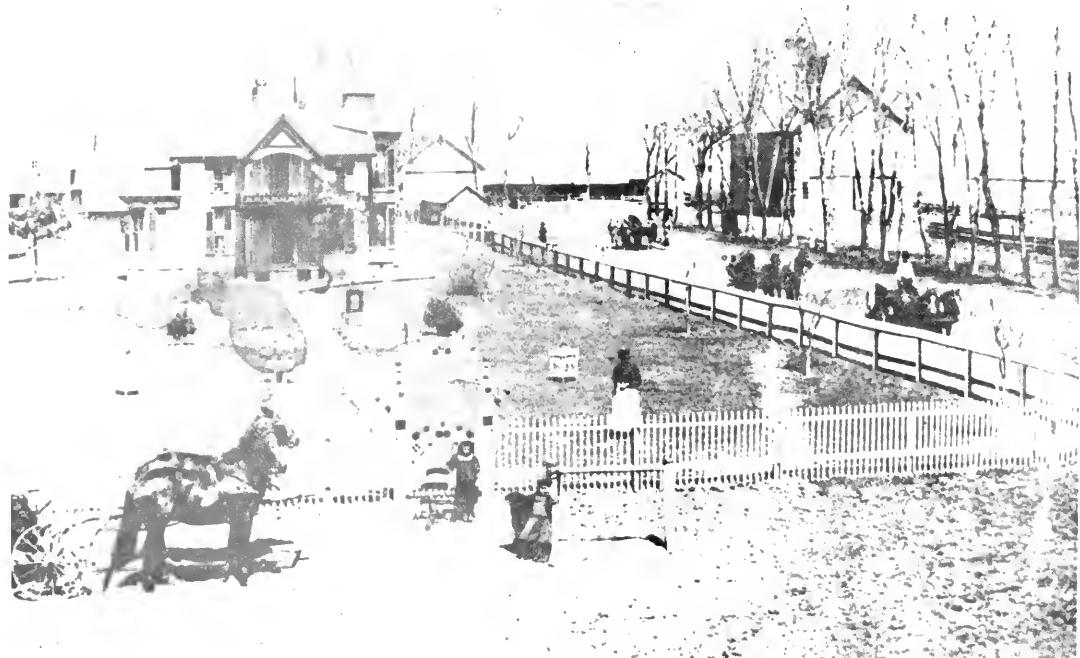
*Photo of Old Store*  
Courtesy of Mrs. Amelia Urbain

There were two ice houses in town—one east of where Wallace Jordan now has his Arco Oil tanks; the other, across the street northeast. E. Schlegel got the ice for his business from Horse Creek.

On the Semer Colman farm in Section 11, there was a neighborhood ice house for many years. Ice blocks were cut during the winter months from the Kral Pond (north of the house now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Feller) and hauled to this building for storage. When the ice house was dismantled, it was found to have three separate walls with air space between for insulation. There was a layer of red paper similar to our black tar paper between each layer and siding on the outside wall. The blocks of ice were further insulated and separated by layers of sawdust.

The picture was taken about 1898 with Mr. and Mrs. Semer Colman in the buggy at the far left foreground. They were the owners of this farm where their grand-nephew Harold Colman and family now live.

Just north of the tracks on Elm Street was another large building, the Modern Woodman Hall. The Gleaners had their meetings here. Later, George



*Picture of Colman Houseplace*  
Courtesy of Harold Colman



*Picture of Woodman Hall  
Courtesy of Miss Katie Hosier*

Kingsnorth had a shop and garage in the building. The Kingsnorth family lived in the Section House in Railroad Park which had originally been used by railroad crewmen. Part of Lil Bibler's Hotel is seen just behind the Hall's roof. Notice the tower on the Montieth house across the street—towers were status symbols. The tower has been removed but the rest of the house still stands as do most of the others in the picture. Notice the lovely young trees many of which still remain (though growing old) as monuments to the memories of the early settlers who had the foresight to plant them.

The April 13, 1888 *Gazette* noted that Arbor Day was approaching and encouraged "everyone old enough to observe the day do so by planting at least one tree and afterward care for it until established and thus help to beautify our prairie."

In the park behind the white fence Chautauqua programs consisting of a series of lectures, entertainment, jubilee singers, etc. were given under tents in the summertime.

During the summer months of 1933, 1934, and 1935, free movies were shown in Buckingham with the screen set up on the street.

#### ELEVATORS

Wm. Herscher ran the elevator on the west side of Elm Street for many years before Otto Gross joined him about 1909. Soon A. Armitage took Mr. Herscher's place until Otto Gross bought him out and ran the elevator alone until his retirement when Alma Gross took over the business for two years. Quaker Oats bought the elevator then and Joe Urbain became manager. In 1940, C. O. Hartman became the "outside man" and by March 1, 1941 was promoted to manager. In 1942, he had to leave for service to his



*Depot and west elevator  
Photo Courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Piper*



*Joe Urbain in elevator office  
Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Joe Urbain*



*East Elevator  
Photo Courtesy of Amelia Urbain*

country and Mr. Trecker assumed his duties from 1942 to 1944 when an accident caused him to resign and Mr. Urbain was called back into service until December of 1945 when Ozzie got back from the service and on Jan. 2, 1946 again assumed the managerial duties until January of 1964. Quaker Oats had sold the elevator in 1957 to three farmers—Martin Campbell, H. Puff, and Wm. Martin. They leased the business to Art Sterrenberg and Wm. Strough who operated the elevator for two years and then leased it to OK Grain Company. On Feb. 6, 1970 both the north building which was built about 1895 and the south building of the complex added about 1955 burned. A corn dryer just a year old also was damaged in this fire. Vincent Feller, an employee of the grain company, estimated that about 20,000 bushels of corn and soybeans were stored in the two buildings about a week before but had been removed for shipment and little was left when the fire broke out. The price of corn in 1970 was \$1.23 a bushel and soybeans were \$2.58.

The elevator on the east side of Elm Street was at one time the Potter Elevator. From about 1906 to 1914, the Inkster Bros. of Herscher ran the business. Later, it was owned by Joe Urbain. The little building under the tree farthest right housed the putt-putt gasoline engine for power to elevate grain until electricity came to town. The elevator was removed in 1954.

Note the hitching rail for teams. To the left of this rail was the town well (off our picture) and a large watering tank.

When grain was hauled by team and wagon over mud roads during the cold winter months, it was necessary to have elevators not too far apart.



"Hat" Armstrong, her horse & buggy  
Photo Courtesy of Katie Hosier

Therefore, there were many more elevators in the early days of Norton. One of these, Appel Siding, still stands two miles due east of Buckingham and is still used for the storage of grain. Another, known as an Inkster Elevator, which was on the SW corner of Section 9 was torn down in 1937 but had not been used for a few years before this. It had been sold to the Farmer's Elevator Company of Reddick.

A colorful person of the town was Mrs. Theodore Armstrong known to most people as "Hat." With her trusty little horse and buggy, she supplied a taxi service for people (mostly salesmen) who wanted to get from one town to another at times when the train schedule was not convenient. Stories are told of the men who were very embarrassed when they learned that their driver was a "lady" and they had not talked (or acted) on the drive as a "gentleman." At that time, there weren't gas stations with restrooms on most corners. Her livery stable was on the east side of Elm south of Oak.

The hard road came to Buckingham about 1928 and soon thereafter passenger service on the railroad was discontinued.

#### BANK

A. Beardsley was the first banker in Buckingham. Early directors included J. F. Hosier and George Reed. L. L. Henry was a cashier in the bank for many years. As with many small banks during the depression years of the early 1930's, the Farmer's State Bank of Buckingham closed its door permanently.

On Feb. 3, 1921, the *Kankakee Republican* carried the headline: "Yeggmen Blow State Bank at Buckingham." It was an unsuccessful attempt at robbery. One charge of nitroglycerine was placed on the time lock, another at the top of the door, and the third at its bottom. One "yegg" watched from a nearby grain elevator and a second watched the back of the bank. No mention is made if the robbers were ever found.

A Cabery resident remembers that in October of 1924, the big safe of the Farmer's State Bank of Cabery was riddled by robbers about 3 A.M. They were successful in escaping with \$1200 even though several residents saw what was going on. The bandits had so many people stationed around town with guns that no one felt safe doing anything until the robbers had left town.

#### RECENT SUBDIVISIONS

In 1970, Clarence and Ellen Smith subdivided an area at the northwest edge of the village for the building of ten homes. The following year, Floyd Wesemann subdivided at the southeast edge of town with twenty-three houses soon built.

## BUCKINGHAM BROOM BRIGADE

The Buckingham Broom Brigade was typical of the thousands of local clubs formed each Presidential year throughout the nation in the late 1800's. The theme of this group of young women was to "Sweep the Democrats out and the Republicans in." It was formed to support Benjamin Harrison in 1888. The Kankakee *Gazette*, of Oct. 14, 1888 devoted two full columns to describe the "Monster Mass Meeting," the eight mile long Republican parade containing 3,500 persons and 600 vehicles and rally topped off by a torchlight parade with drill teams competing for prizes in the evening. Kankakee at that time had a population of about 5,000 souls but 15,000 persons thronged the city's streets on Saturday, October 9, 1888 to see the numerous floats, hear the Momence glee club, and the speaker for the day, General Logan who spoke for 2½ hours "holding the closest attention of his vast audience. His speech gave unbounded satisfaction and was a complete summing up of the issues of the campaign." The *Gazette* also noted that "General Logan brought a stenographer for his own personal use" probably to make sure that he was not misquoted at a later date. Each township in the county furnished a delegation, numerous floats, and was preceded by a band. Commented the *Gazette*, "There was a marked absence of drunkenness on the streets. Everybody was sober, good-natured, well-dressed and happy. The hotels, restaurants, and eating stands reaped a rich harvest out of the visitors. The stand of the Methodist ladies took in \$75; another stand \$70. Stamm's bakery sold 1,500 loaves of bread and ran out long before the demand ceased."



Buckingham Broom Brigade  
Photo Courtesy of Melva Rathman

Mrs. Myrtle Swope was able to identify those in the picture:

TOP ROW: Mary Lowden, Mrs. Philip Worth, Alice Patterson  
ROW 2: Flora Hendrix, Sadie Peterson, May Elliott, Mrs. Joe Fleming, Ida McNamee, Mable Beardsley, Melissa Crydenwise, and Margaret Worth  
ROW 3: Nettie Potter, Carrie Bowers, Clara VanDoren, Essie Duffy, Lillian Bronsey, Rhoda Hunter, and Alice Ellsworth



Men in torchlight parade  
Photo Courtesy of Effie Crydenwise

ROW 4: Stella Ellsworth, Louella Ellsworth, Minnie Schlegal, Mrs. Will Brown, Maude Brown Patchett, and Leona Worth

A group of men from Buckingham participated in the torchlight parade. The only ones whose identity is known are Peter, Ed, and Ole Feren, B. W. Crydenwise, and Jim Smith. In the background are some early buildings of the town but they, too, are unidentified. One resident remembers a BIG bonfire the men had near Buckingham through which Jim Smith ran his horse.

#### BOY SCOUTS

From 1939 to 1942, Buckingham Boy Scout Troop 122 was led by Russell Mau of Herscher with Donald Tuntland assisting until he had to leave for service in W. W. II. Among its activities were handcrafts and attendance at camp on the Boy Scout Reservation near Morris during the summer. Some of the boys in the troop were Clair Hendrix, Kenneth, Elwyn, and Dale Kingsnorth, Wayne and Russell Hosier, Charles McClintock, Verner Lane, Jerry Jessup, Clifford Clemans, and Eldon and Verl Overright. The purpose of the organization was to provide citizenship training through outdoor experiences teaching the boys the American way of life so that they might grow to be responsible and decent citizens.



Aug. 1939 Boy Scout picture. L. to R. Wm. Hughes, camp director, Ralph Hosier, Verl Overright, Elwyn Kingsnorth, Eldon Overright

Courtesy of Russell Mau

#### RACE TRACK

On the Huntley farm which was later bought by Louis Winterroth and now owned by James Goldenstein (Section 11) just before the turn of the century, there was a half-mile race track. The Huntleys employed three colored jockies—Johnny Jones, Billy Montgomery, and Johnny Clark. Although Johnny Jones weighed only 90 pounds, he

was able to subdue Border F, a big black stallion Mr. Huntley bought in Louisville about 1899. After the money for the horse was paid, Mr. Huntley was told that Border F had killed three men just shortly before the sale.

Dave Huntley remembers that one time his grandfather was returning home from Dwight with a substantial sum of gold when robbers jumped from the bushes beside the road grabbing the horses. During a flash of lightning, David shot his 45 Western Colt. The next morning, a loose team of horses was found wandering in the area. The family still has the old Colt. The pioneers later "got smart" and put a sharp point on the end of the buggy tongues. Another time, Mr. Huntley bought a keg of fish, opened it in the store and took out some of the fish returning them to the shopkeeper, put a large amount of gold in the keg, closed it, and got home safely with his money.

#### CORNET BAND

In the years around 1888, Buckingham had a Cornet Band with Asa F. Beardsley a member and "quite proficient performer." On Feb. 17th, the band presented the drama "An Only Daughter" with a well-selected program including a farce, vocal and instrumental music, recitations, etc. The entertainment was a complimentary benefit in appreciation of the faithful instruction of the band leader, Mr. Robert Hunter.

#### MURPHY CLUB

An April 5, 1888 item in the *Gazette* from Buckingham notes: "The quarterly election of officers for the Murphy Club on March 31 resulted as follows: President, Bert Smith; Vice-President, Mrs. Jessup; Secretary, Grant Becker; Treasurer, Mrs. Randall; Organist, Ruth Jessup; and Committee Mesdames Jessup, Conrow, and Randall.

#### 4-H CLUB

From 1939 to 1941, there was a girls' 4-H Club in Buckingham with Elsie Tuntland and Laura Gaus as co-leaders. Some of the members were Geraldine and Dolores Essington, Stella Mae and Dorothy McClintock, Charlotte Thorson, Virginia Munson, Caroline Sir, Marilyn Herscher, Eloise Kingsnorth, Pauline Cook, and Alice, Myrtle, and Emma Mae Crawford.

From 1941 to 1951, Mrs. Anna Winterroth assisted by Evelyn Becker led the Sunshine Pals 4-H Club which started with nine members and increased rapidly.

During 1969 and '70, Mrs. Warren Overright and Mrs. Howard Burrow led the girls. Junior Leaders from Herscher assisted Mrs. Overright in 1970 and 1971.

#### FRIENDLY NEIGHBORS CLUB

For a very short time, there was a Home Bureau



Neighbors Club tour of Armour Laboratories. Date of Photo: 7-5-56. Top Step: Mrs. Merlin Elmhurst, Mrs. John Rathman, Mrs. Leonard Siedentop, Mrs. Floyd Weseman, Mrs. Alvin Gaus, Mrs. George Gaus, Mrs. Elmer Berger, Mrs. Frank Sumner, Mrs. Edwin Berger, Mrs. Orlin Hendrix, Mrs. Harold Colman; Bottom Step: Mrs. Earl Gross, Mrs. McKinley Hendrix, Miss Cathy Elmhurst, Mrs. Eldon Berger, Miss Margo Hendrix, Mrs. Lawrence Motzig, Mrs. Walter Geiger, Mrs. Kenneth Geiger.

Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Alvin Gaus

group in the area led by Darlene Mortimer but it soon dropped its official connections and became the Friendly Neighbors Club early in 1949. It has been meeting the first Thursday afternoon of each month at members' homes since then with the learning of some kind of handcraft scheduled for most months. Charter members still active are Elsie Gross (the president in '76), Odessa Hendrix (the vice-president in '76), Alvina and Genevieve Berger, Laura Gaus, Darlene Mortimer, Melva Rathman, Ethel Sumner, Mary Wesemann, and Pearl Winterroth. Other members now are Lena Burrow, Effie Crydenwise, Jessie Overright, (Secretary-Treasurer in '76), Mary Lou Elmhurst, Viola Wagner, and Edna Witheft. Tours, outings, and parties with the husbands invited are enjoyed by the group.

#### HERSCHER SPORTSMAN CLUB at Buckingham, Illinois

The purpose of the Herscher Sportsman Club which began meeting in the American Legion Hall in

Herscher on Feb. 16, 1938 and was incorporated Jan. 30, 1958, the same year Buckingham became its home, is to work in cooperation with other groups in the conservation and restoration of our natural resources and in the propagation of fish and game. A few dates and facts important to this group are:

- 12/59 Quit Claim Deed rec'd. from ICRR for Reservoir site without well site. Well, pump, and site purchases from ICRR
- 6/62 Club House, block building, built-\$3,290
- 11/64 Swim Pool constructed-8" washed sand bottom-\$3,000
- 5/65 Red Cross Swim Instruction Program begun
- 10/67 Shelter built to house showers, lunch stand, etc. \$9,000
- 6/68 Camping permitted
- 5/69 Rubber liner, redwood curb installed in pool-\$10,000
- 1/72 Playground equipment purchased. Chain-link fence installed. Gates are kept locked.
- 11/73 2½ acres north of Club grounds purchased from Buckingham Grain Company making 10.7 acres of club grounds.

From January of 1944 to January of 1974, the membership grew from 85 to 621 persons and dues rose from \$1.00 to \$45 per new member. Floyd Wesemann has worked untiringly for this group for many years.

#### WOMEN'S CLUB OF BUCKINGHAM

Twenty-three women of Buckingham met on Oct. 27, 1970 for the purpose of organizing the Buckingham Women's Club. Ruth Heller was elected president; Marie Holmes, Vice president; Rita Martell, Secretary; and Marge Lichtenberger, Treasurer. A clean-up day is to be held in the village in April or May of each year. Among the projects completed by the group are the installation of street signs, the making of birthday and activity calendars, the painting of the fire hydrants, the making of a quilt, distribution of food baskets, the gathering and disposal of junked cars from the village, and the buying of two barricades. Donations have been made to worthy causes.

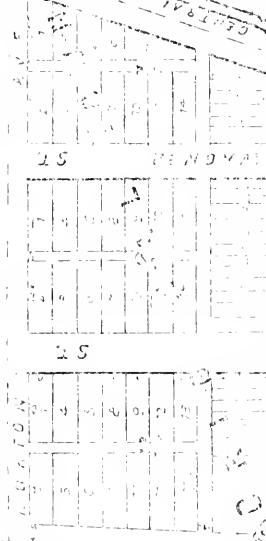
In the future, the group hopes to assist the village in obtaining and maintaining a Village Hall.

Present officers are Mary Myers, president; Marie Holmes, Karen Thurston, and Mildred Harris.

## VIII Village of Cabery

C. GUTSFOLD

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STATE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
REGISTRATION CARD

STATE  
CITY  
COUNTY  
TOWN  
POST OFFICE  
STREET  
NUMBER  
APARTMENT  
MAILING ADDRESS  
CITY  
STATE  
ZIP CODE

STATE

STATE

STATE

TURINER		CHESTER		SPR.	
ST. 3	ST. 4	ST. 5	ST. 6	ST. 7	ST. 8
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24

CHESTER ST.

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This go-ahead, wide awake village had started as a "Four-Corners" postoffice location by Chester L. Ames in 1867. Its history begins when the Bloomington branch of the Illinois Central Railroad went thru in 1878 and a depot was established. It lies on the county line between Kankakee and Ford Counties. The south division was laid out and platted by Chester Ames and the north side by Peter Wagner, who owned 80 acres. They were two of the oldest men in the village.

The formation of a Masonic Lodge brought about its name. Walter Colton, lodge master, was instructed to purchase furniture and fixtures for the lodge room from John R. Caberry of Chicago who traveled this part of the country. Caberry, a mason, gave \$200 worth of furniture without charge. The local lodge immediately forwarded a request to the grand lodge to have the organization named for its benefactor. It was learned that a lodge could not be named for a living person. So the group named itself "Norton Masonic Lodge," but the postmaster named his office Caberry. When Mr. Caberry donated the furniture, he was a wealthy man but some years later he met with a financial disaster and lost all his property. The lodge here was prosperous, and when its members heard of his failure, they sent him \$200 to help him in his time of need.

Caberry was incorporated as a village in the fall of 1881. The postmaster insisted that the old postoffice name be retained, which was done. In years later one "r" was deleted but when incorporated it was known as Caberry.

The village boomed in its early years. At one time it had 40 businesses and was considered the busiest town between Kankakee and Bloomington. It owes much of its growth and general prosperity to the entire harmony and unanimity among its business men and residents, who all heartily unite upon any improvements that may be brought forward for the public good.



Just as things were looking the brightest, on Sunday, May 3, 1885 at 3 a.m. fire broke out in a millinery shop, spread to the Commercial Hotel and destroyed 24 places of business and 14 homes before it burned out leaving it a ghost town of smoldering ruins. In the business area only a livery barn and hardware store remained. Total loss was estimated at \$100,000 with only about one fourth of that amount covered by insurance. It was soon rebuilt.

West of Caberry some of the early settlers were Anthony and Peter Sadler, Peter Paradies, the Clapp brothers, John Lovell, Justice Wagner, John Pastorel, Peter Wagner, Jared Williams, the Sargeant brothers, Thomas Greenwood, Charlie Schumacher, William Bouk, and others. While east of Caberry were Nelson Adams, H. M. Cook, Charlie Down, David Bullock, John Hughes, Sr., Farleys, the Hiddleston brothers, George, James, Erastus, and Calvin. South of town, we find Jerry Rogers, the first supervisor of Rogers Township for whom the township was named, Versal Porter, the Claytons, Taylors, and Ogilvies all from the state of Ohio, Louis Burno, John Waldschmidt, William Allerton, Jonathan Shaw, the McLaughlin brothers and Newton Gates. Among the early settlers of Norton Township were Charles M. Luther, Thomas and Joseph Smith, J. M. Cole, Thomas Lee, the Eldred brothers, Ira Gultner, Silas Wright and others. Walter A. Colton served 6 years as supervisor of Norton Township and was for fifteen years sheriff of Kankakee County.

Business places already established in the early days before and after incorporation include the following:

- Commercial Hotel and saloon, Peter Wagner in 1875
- Two liveries, one by Daniel A. Kenyon employing 6 horses and vehicles
- Two wagon shops, one by Leonard Theis in 1878
- Three blacksmith shops, by Leonard Theis and his brother Christopher in 1878, W. S. Keyes, and George Lowden
- Two lumber yards, one by Daniel A. Kenyon in 1879 carrying a full line of building materials and handled coal. One by James F. Wright in 1879 with a full line of lumber, sash, doors, lime, etc.
- Three saloons by Charles Gebhardt, Jacob Spies, and Peter Wagner
- Two restaurants
- One flax mill
- One steam mill by James F. Wright in 1879 for grinding corn, buckwheat, rye, etc. for custom use
- Four general stores: C. L. Ames in 1868, burned in 1878, John Gigl in company

with W. C. Tuttle & Robert Patterson, H. H. Nelson & firm of N. B. Olson & Co. Nov. 1879, W. Walker and brother Mathias in 1882

- A furniture store
- A hardware store by W. C. Tuttle in 1878 with Samuel Leopold with a full line of hardware, agriculture machinery, wagons, seving machines, etc.
- Large drug store by William Ennis in 1880 carrying a full line of patent medicines,

drugs, sundries, paints, oils, etc.

- A clothing store
- A butcher shop
- Two tile factories—by Peter Wagner in the north part of town; the other in the south part
- A good public hall
- A doctor
- A dentist
- An optometrist
- A funeral home & furniture store by



*Manicured like a golf green was Cabery's wide Main Street (about 1910). The boulevard still separates Kankakee County, on the left from Ford County, on the right. 'Tis said many a Ford County deputy, armed with a subpoena, traveled the long 50 odd miles back home with the document unserved . . . when the subject merely walked across the street to comparative safety.*

NORTH SIDE—NORTON TWP.

1. Blacksmith Shop
2. Funeral Parlor & Furniture (C. Gebhardt)
3. Grocery Store (P. Trecker)
4. Butcher Shop (Veysey)
5. Casey & Naas Tavern
6. Wagner Tavern
7. Shoemaker (H. Christ), Harness (Frank Fisher)
8. Keyes Blacksmith
9. Dr. Duffy (optician) Dr. Sprague (dentist)
10. Vacant lot
11. Spies Tavern

WAGNER STREET

12. D. B. Keighen Hardware
13. Dave Baer Livery
14. Theo. Crilly Blacksmith

I. C. RAILROAD

15. Porch & Adams Grain

SOUTH SIDE—FORD COUNTY

1. Masonic Bldg. 1889
2. H. H. Nelson Clothing
3. Miller and Clayton Store
4. Mrs. Dan Miller Millinery
5. Mrs. Anna Latz—candy
6. Al Koerber—baker
- 7.
8. C. Merrill Hardware
9. R. M. Riggs General Store
10. Reuben Brenisa Bank
11. Porch & Adams Bank
12. Tom Nugent Hotel
13. Tom Nugent Ice Cream
14. Barber Bill Sadler
15. P. N. Ravenskild Jeweler
16. U. S. Postoffice—Pat Whalen
17. Shoemaker Tavern

RAILROAD AVENUE

I.C.R.R. Depot

*Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Iva Peterson*

Charles Gebhardt

- A bowling alley
- Stockyards
- Race track
- Creamery
- Printing office
- A theater
- Two banks—Porch & Adams and Farmers State Bank (Brenesia)
- Cheese Factory
- Three Grain Elevators—Porch and Adams in the north; Garrett Nugent on the east side of the railroad tracks across from the I.C. Depot; Farmers Grain in the south. The farmers bought it from Joseph W. Rubey, Randolph County, Indiana for \$5,800 in July, 1914. Harry Tjardes was the first manager. At present it is still the Farmers Grain Co. with Stephen Clapp, manager.
- And train service with 3 trains each way each day from Kankakee to Bloomington.



*This picture was taken on April 27, 1919, following the funeral services of the former and long-time Cabery undertaker, Charles Gebhardt. Photo was taken on Cabery Main Street directly in front of Mr. Gebhardt's place of business. The hearse was hand made by Mr. Gebhardt and driven by June Myers, who supplied the fine team of horses. When the roads were very muddy another team belonging to the late Elmer Colthurst was also used.*

*Photo Courtesy of Miss Lillian Gebhardt, daughter of the late Charles Gebhardt.*

Dr. William Miller came in 1884 after graduating from Rush Medical College in Chicago. Besides locating his office in Cabery, he also established a drug store. In 1886, he married Miss Alice Clayton. They had four children—Hazel (Mrs. Arthur Mentzer), Genevieve (Mrs. William Naas), Clayton (Dockie of sports fame), and Charles. Dr. Miller died at his home in Cabery in 1942 at the age of 84 of a heart attack having practiced medicine here for 58 years.

A. C. SCHRADER began the telephone service in the fall of 1903. A telephone service was established on the Kankakee County side with free telephone service to the neighboring towns. This was completed by December 1903 with 40 phones installed. Miss Mabel Bonsell was the first operator. We are now served by General Telephone of Bloomington.

The first Roman Catholic Church, known as "The Little White Church," was built in 1867 on land donated by the Peter Wagner family. Mass had been said in the Wagner home. During the early years it was a Mission Church served by the pastors from Union Town (now Loretto). Three churches have graced the highest site in the village. The present St. Joseph's Church was built in 1904 under the pastorate of Rev. J. F. Eckert. In 1892, St. Joseph's received its first resident pastor, the Rev. J. F. Donovan. Today, it has about 90 families. The churchyard originally served as a cemetery. It was later moved one mile west on land donated by the Sadler family. Father Eckert lies buried there.



*An old landmark on Cabery's Main Street at the turn of the century was the Peterson & Veysey Butcher Shop, shown here. Randall Peterson and William Veysey were partners in the meat business for several years, and are both shown in the photo, which was taken about 1898.*

*Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Iva Drew Peterson*

Dr. Gilborne was Cabery's first physician. He came from New York state in 1872 and lived one mile north of Cabery until the railroad was built, when he moved to Cabery. He had two children—Anna, who taught the four upper grades in the Cabery school. Later she married Mr. Leopold and taught school out West. Beakley, a doctor, graduated from Medical School in Chicago. In his later years he lived in Herscher where he practiced.

Presbyterians, under the leadership of Mrs. Amy Merrill, Miss Eva Peterson, Mrs. Ada Penfield, Mrs. D. A. Kenyon, and Mrs. Libby Richardson, (All Sunday School teachers) erected the present church. The lot was purchased from Ed. Clayton for \$200 and a lot from Chester Ames for \$100 for the manse. At ground breaking ceremonies the first spadeful of dirt was thrown by Mrs. Kenyon. The church was completed in April 1887 at a cost of \$1200. It was dedicated July 1, 1887 free of debt with a balance of \$44. The north part was added in 1901 at a cost of \$1300. The Rev. W. W. Cole was the first full-time pastor beginning in 1887. The manse was built in 1889 at a cost of \$450. In 1949, the men of the parish put in a basement.

In June 1961, the Cabery Presbyterian Church joined the Yoke-Field Ministry with the Kempton and Campus Methodist Churches to form the Trinity Protestant Parish. It is now known as the Cabery United Methodist Church.

The first schoolteacher in the community was Walter Colton, who in 1886 held classes in a small sod building on the Jacob Wagner farm on the west edge of the village. As there were no real estate taxes then, it was supported by subscription. Later a frame building was built across the street from the present structure to house the first eight grades and two years of high school. The first graduating class from two years high school was Geraldine Whalen (Mrs. Frank Wagner), Mabel Bonzell (Mrs. Oscar Bronsey), and Charlotte Olson in 1901. The last graduating class from two years high school was Esther McGinnis (Mrs. Lyman Topliff), Eliza McGinnis (Mrs. Fields), and Gladys Diehl (Mrs. Philip Crist) in 1913.

Cabery's present school building was built in 1913 to accommodate the first eight grades and four years high school. This was the only four year high school in the area. Consequently, the students wanting more than two years high school came from neighboring towns to complete their schooling. The first four year graduating class was Peter Boesen, Charles Miller, and Bruce Riggs in 1915. The last graduating class in 1946 was Norma Lois Olson and Logan Meadows.

When consolidation began in 1946, the Cabery High School students attended Kempton High and the first eight grades stayed in Cabery with an attendance of 100 or more. In 1958, Cabery and Kempton united to form the Kempton-Cabery Unit for both grade and High School. In 1969, Kempton-Cabery and Cullom merged to form the present Tri-Point Unit 6J with high school attending Cullom and grades kept in Cabery, Kempton, and Cullom. In 1972, the Cabery building was closed and the Cabery children were bussed to Kempton and Cullom requiring two school busses.

The football story tells of the famous Cabery semi-pro team, under Clayton (Dockie) Miller, which dominated play in its class through the state from 1910-1934. Featured is the game between Cabery and the Panthers of Stateville Prison in 1932. The teams battled to a 0-0 tie behind the prison walls of Joliet, before a crowd of 300 guests and 3000 inmates. In a return engagement a few weeks later Cabery lost 12-6 to the prison team. Cabery has always had strong teams in football, baseball, and basketball.

Over the twenty-four year period of existence of the Cabery football team, 82 men were on the roster. In 1947, some fifty of its members held a reunion in the Cabery Gymnasium . . . the last such reunion held . . . and apparently, the last hurrah for the big team from the little town.

Cabery is typical of many small towns in the area. To stay on the map has been an effort at times, yet it has survived a large fire and over 300 people still call it their home.

There are numerous clubs and organizations, some quite old, some new, which are very active, including the two churches with the Council of Catholic Women and the United Methodist Women's Unit, the Lions Club, Order of Eastern Star, The Masons, two Home Extension Units, Cabery Carefree Club, Bridge Club, Cabery Card Club, Jr. Womans Club, and two 4H Clubs. Also a large grocery store, hardware, two beauty shops, two taverns (one a restaurant), Warmbir Trucking, Marti Trucking, Youth Center, Farmers Grain Co., Fire Department, Standard Garage, Standard Oil Truck Service, Cabery Fertilizer Plant, Cabery Therapy Center, General Telephone Building (built in 1974), four places that are used for parties, recreation, etc., and a postoffice with two rural mail routes.

Copied by Amelia Majorowicz from material given to me by Mrs. Orman Olson, Mr. William Sadler (Barber), Mr. Stephen Clapp.

From 1916 POCKET DIRECTORY  
OF CABERY, ILLINOIS Pop. about 500  
Presented by its Leading Business People:  
TURNER & TURNER—Hardware, stoves, and  
tinware

FARMERS STATE BANK OF CABERY

—Capital . . . \$25,000  
Surplus and Undivided Profits . . . \$5000  
We pay 3% on time deposits.  
W. H. ESSINGTON—The Corner Hardware  
P. M. Ravenskilde—Watchmaker and Jeweler  
Chinaware, Phonographs, Toilet Goods, Books,  
and Stationery

THE FARMERS GRAIN CO.—Harry Tjardes, Mgr.  
Dealers in Grain & Coal  
THE CABERY HOUSE—Thomas Nugent, Prop.  
Ice Cream Parlor Soft Drinks Cigars Candies

F. H. MILLER—Fresh and Smoked Meats

Sausages of all kinds

W. LEISEROWITZ—General Merchandise

HERSCHER and CABERY

W. Harry Leiserowitz, Cabery, Mgr.

CABERY GARAGE—Ford, Studebaker & Hudson

Cars Auto Supplies & Repairs

M. S. SCHUMACHER GARAGE—Automobiles,  
Supplies, and Repairing

PAUL KNITTEL—Auto and Horse Livery Hitch  
and Feed Barn

F. G. FREDERICK—Dealer in Clothing, Shoes, Hats,  
Ladies' and Gent's Furnishings

OFFICIALS OF CABERY: Mayor, W. R. Watts;

Clerk, H. M. Breneisa; Treas., J. F. Schumacher

COUNCILMEN: Joseph Duffy, John Lovell, W.

H. Essington, R. E. Gifford, A. F. Mentzer, Harry

Naas

BOARD of EDUCATION: Pres., W. R. Watts;

Sec'y., M. A. Riggs; Treas., J. F. Schumacher

POSTMASTER: Thomas Nugent

Physician and Surgeon: Dr. W. M. Miller

Oculist: Dr. Joseph Duffy

CHURCHES: First Presbyterian Church Rev.

Elisha A. Hoffman; St. Joseph's Catholic

Church Rev. John Kleinsorg

#### RAILROAD TIME SCHEDULE

NORTH		SOUTH	
Passenger	9:15 A.M.	Passenger	8:50 A.M.
Freight	2:35 P.M.	Freight	9:55 A.M.
Passenger	7:03 P.M.	Passenger	8:05 P.M.

The following items have been copied from  
"THE CABERY ENQUIRER," dates as given:

1892 John Wagner is having his tile factory  
overhauled preparatory to start work  
after having it closed for over a year.

1-26-1899 Mrs. Peter Wagner is offering her tile  
factory and machinery for sale.

5-10-1900 Charles Hunold has torn down the old  
tile factory at Cabery.

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10-26-1893 The dance at Guilborne's Hall was a  
rough affair, many of the participants  
having too much "tanglefoot" to  
conduct themselves in a gentlemanly  
manner.

11- 9-1893 The lumber has been ordered for the  
new sidewalk from Michael Pitt's house  
to the Catholic Church at Cabery.

2-15-1894 Merrill and Riggs have a carload of extra  
fine potatoes selling at 65¢ a bushel; jelly  
at 50¢ a pail; crackers at 5¢ a pound.

3-22-1894 One of Cabery's merchants took in 250  
dozen eggs Saturday P.M.

6-28-1894 The creamery at Cabery receives more  
than 15,000 pounds of milk each day  
and Carr has found it necessary to add  
more help.

7- 5-1894 Observance of the Fourth of July at  
Cabery began with a sunrise gun salute.  
The parade began at 10 o'clock,  
followed at 11 by an eloquent address  
by Rev. George McGill. Contests and  
horseracing filled the afternoon for the  
large crowd attending.

8-16-1894 William Wyant of Cullom made his first  
balloon ascension at the Cabery  
celebration last Saturday.

12- 1-1894 The sparrow bounty went into effect  
Dec. 1 and will continue until February.

2-15-1894 They have a special flour sale  
Tuesday . . . one customer bought 8½  
barrels. A carload of potatoes and  
one-half carload of apples were sold  
Saturday and Monday by one store in  
Cabery.

1-10-1895 George Correct has completed his house  
for the manufacture of sorghum  
molasses, and next fall expects to turn  
out a first class product.

8- 1-1895 Cabery is to have a Bakery. Cullom,  
Kempton, Herscher, and Buckingham  
will be supplied with bread and pastry.  
The oven will have a capacity of 450  
loaves per day.

2- 4-1897 A home talent play, "Sweet Briar," was  
given Saturday night in Keyes Hall at  
Cabery. The receipts were \$24.20. This  
will go toward the school library.

5-27-1897 Saturday was a big day for Cabery. The  
streets were lined with teams for which  
there was scarcely hitching room.

12- 9-1897 Our local harness maker, Frank Fisher, is  
having a rush of business and has  
engaged the services of Robert Burgess.

4-28-1898 Recruiting officers have been at  
Kempton and Cabery getting volunteers  
to enlist for the service in Cuba.

5-11-1899 A woman swindler is working the  
neighboring towns collecting hair  
switches and combs to be made over.  
She collects the money in advance, but  
does not return nor does she pay hotel  
bills.

6- 1-1899 The heaviest hail storm in many years  
struck Cabery and vicinity on Monday.  
Hailstones of 2½ inches were found.

6- 8-1899 All hitching posts and signs are to be  
removed from Main Street.

7- 6-1899 Cabery has been figuring on buying new

hitching posts. Procrastination has prevailed and now the price of iron has doubled in the last four months.

7- 6-1899 "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves," "Peck's Bad Boy," and "Rubberneck Rueben" will be shown at the Princess Theater Saturday.

8- 3-1899 During the past week old hitchracks and platforms have been removed from Cabery's Main Street and about 300 feet of iron pipe racks have been set up on the side streets.

2- 1-1900 Lost on the streets of Cabery on Tuesday evening of last week, a hair switch about 18 inches long. Finder will please call at this office for the reward as the young lady wishes her name withheld for some reason or other.

3-29-1900 Walter Colton, Cabery hunter, shot down 9 wild ducks out of a flock of 16 flying over his farm on Saturday. This reminds us of the good old days when we need not leave our own dooryard to down a good bag of geese or ducks.

5-17-1900 You may buy a large cake or an angel food cake for 15¢ at the Cabery Bakery.

5-31-1900 An electric light now hangs over Cabery's Croquet Park and the game continues from sunrise to 11 P.M. when the power goes off.

7- 1-1900 The Presbyterian Ladies will serve meals on the Fourth of July for 25¢ a plate.

10-18-1906 Cabery's new steel jail cells, with a capacity of four, have been erected in the village hall. "Who will be first?" queries the *Enquirer*.

10-18-1906 Through the efforts of J. F. Schumaker, two real estate swindlers who had operated in the Kempton-Cabery areas, selling fake lots in a new Missouri town, were apprehended and placed in jail at Lincoln.

11-29-1906 Fisher and Christ have installed a new gasoline system in their harness and shoe store at Cabery.

6-10-1909 Jeff Madson will open a harness shop in the building formerly used by F. A. Fisher, who has moved to Deering, Mass.

7-14-1910 P. N. Wagner has bought the shoe and harness business of Chris Jensen at Cabery, taking possession last Saturday.

12- 1-1895 The electric lights were turned on Saturday for the first time in Cabery.

5-17-1900 Cabery citizens are petitioning for an electric light plant either by renewal of contract with the present owners or establishment of a municipal plant.

12-13-1906 There is talk about installing an electric plant at Cabery.

9-25-1924 Cabery now has lights after 23 years of darkness. The right-of-way over the railroad tracks has not yet been granted, so those on the east side of town are still waiting for the current.

\*\*\*\*\*

11-15-1894 Carpenters from Chicago are building an ice house at the rear of the Cabery Postoffice lot for John Schumaker.

2- 7-1895 The ice crop is prodigious. Next July we will be glad it was cold in January.

2- 3-1898 Miller & Clayton are filling their ice house today with 8 inch ice from Ogilvie's pond. John Schumaker had the ice plowed on the Gifford pond, but the water ran out from under it, allowing the ice to settle in the mud making it useless.

6- 5-1899 Ice for sale at 20¢ per hundred; in ton lots, 15¢.

2- 7-1907 Workmen are cutting 12 inch ice at Cabery this week.

#### CABERY'S CORN CARNIVALS

Corn was King 'way back in 1909, as it is today, in Illinois. Old photo loaned by William Hiddleston shows Cabery's Main Street all dolled up for the annual CORN CARNIVAL, a celebration feature of those days. Corn showed up in various forms . . . both solid and liquid . . . during the big days, and furnished decorations for business places.

Large crowds from neighboring towns and from a distance attended these yearly celebrations.

#### ORGANIZATIONS, CLUBS, AND LODGES OF CABERY, ILLINOIS PAST AND PRESENT FEBRUARY 1, 1976

Norton Masonic Lodge, A.F. & A.M., No. 631

The formation of the Norton Masonic Lodge brought about the name of the Village of Cabery. Walter Colton, Lodge Master, was instructed to purchase furniture and fixtures for the lodge room from John R. Caberry of Chicago, a salesman who traveled this part of the country. Caberry, a Mason, gave \$200 worth of furniture without cost. The local lodge immediately forwarded a request to the Grand Lodge to have the organization named for its benefactor. It was learned that a lodge could not be named for a living person. So the group named itself "Norton Masonic Lodge," its building being in Norton Township. But the postmaster named his office Caberry. (One r was later deleted.) When Mr. Caberry donated the furniture, he was a wealthy man, but some years later he met with financial disaster and lost all his property. The lodge here was then prosperous, and when its members learned of his



*Cabery's Corn Carnival—Main Street  
Courtesy William Hiddleston*

failure, they sent him \$200 to help him in his time of need.

At first the Lodge owned a two-story building on the north side of the street in Norton Township. Later in 1889, they built a two-story brick structure on the south side of the street in Rogers Township.

The building was sold in 1973 and they transferred their membership to the Kankakee Masonic Lodge, No. 389.

#### **Order of Eastern Star, No. 257**

**Submitted by Mrs. E. Fleischauer**

The order of Eastern Star, No. 257 began in 1894. Ella M. Cooper was the first Worthy Matron and E. W. Taylor, the first Worthy Patron.

Five generations of the Fred Falter family have belonged or still belong. A descendant of the Falter family, Mrs. Elmer Fleischauer, (Elizabeth Canham), was the first baby born to any member of the Order.

Its purpose is purely sociable.

Current Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron are Mr. and Mrs. Arley Wilson.

#### **I.O.O.F. Cabery Odd Fellows, No. 296**

The Cabery Odd Fellows began as early as 1889. They had lodge rooms upstairs in the Keyes building on the north side of the street in Norton Township.

They bought their own building on the south side of the street in Rogers Township on May 1, 1894

from Dr. Henry Guilborne.

**Cabery Rebekah Lodge No. 316  
organized July 13, 1899.**

**Modern Woodman of America,  
Cabery Chapter No. 1520**

The Cabery Chapter of the Modern Woodman of America organized in 1883. As of December 1, 1893, the officers were: Venerable Consul, L. D. Gifford; Advisor, H. A. Ogilvie; Banker, R. M. Riggs; Clerk, George Butterworth; Escort, E. W. Taylor; Watchman, George E. Hunter; and Sentry, John Fagan. (no longer)

**Royal Neighbors of America, Crescent Camp No. 644**

**Gleaner Arbor, No. 1283 (no longer)  
Yoeman Council No. 450 (no longer)**

**Cabery Racing and Amusement Association**

On July 7, 1894 a Stock Company was formed to build a Race Track. Twenty acres of land in the east end of town in Norton Township had been leased from Charles Gifford for a term of five years. Survey for a half mile of track had been made with President, L. D. Gifford; Secretary, Clinton Merrill; Treasurer, Patrick Whalen. (no longer)

**The Cabery Dramatic Club**

The Cabery Dramatic Club, under the direction of William H. Trecker, in 1906 and 1907 presented plays like "Josh Winchester," "Hazel Adams," "The

Moonshiner's Daughter," and "Uncle Tom's Cabin." (no longer)

#### Roller Skating and Dancing Club (no longer)

##### Cabery Pleasure Club

The Cabery Pleasure Club with about forty young men began April 30, 1908. President, Ross Gifford; Secretary, Joseph Merten; and Treasurer, John F. Schumaker. (no longer)

##### Tuesday Evening Amusement Club

The T.E.A. Club, a group of young women. (no longer)

##### Chamber of Commerce

A Chamber of Commerce was organized August 30, 1934 with President, Paul Koops; Secretary, Otis B. Essington; and Treasurer, Thomas Nugent. (no longer)

##### The Cabery Carefree Club

The Cabery Carefree Club began as the Ladies Auxiliary of the Chamber of Commerce. When the Chamber of Commerce no longer met, the Ladies changed the name to the Carefree Club on November 20, 1939. Six charter members were: Mesdames Orman Olson, Milton Colthurst, William Varney, Edward Ohrt, Fred Burch, and Clayton Miller. All are still members except Mrs. Burch, who has passed away.

It celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary October 17, 1964 with a banquet at Mantoan's Restaurant on Route 17 with eleven members and nine former members attending.

The Club erected a plaque honoring the local servicemen, on the corner of Main Street and Railroad Avenue. The dedication took place Sunday afternoon, November 7, 1971.

At present only eight members remain, meeting the third Monday of the month, except July and August, with a Christmas outing in December. They play "500" for entertainment.

The present officers are: President, Mrs. Milton Colthurst; Vice-President, Mrs. Edward Ohrt; Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. Orman Olson.

##### The Cabery Bridge Club

The Bridge Club of Cabery dates back to September 19, 1939 when a group decided to organize. It started with both men and ladies. In the summer time only the ladies continued. They had from four to six tables through the years.

As time went on the men dropped out but the ladies have played every two weeks on Wednesday evenings. For years there were three tables. Now there are only two tables, playing Contract Bridge having changed from Auction Bridge.

The purpose of the Club is purely entertainment.

##### Lions Club

—Submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Merideth Drew

The Kempton-Cabery Lions Club was formed by a group of interested community citizens with the assistance of Lion D. L. (Bud) Campbell of Coal City, Lion Walter Christiansen, and I-B District Governor Lion Donald Miller. In October, 1960 the first organizational meeting was held, and the Club was chartered January 14, 1961.

The Charter Members were: Walter Adent, James O. Bailey, John Bergan, Carrel L. Bruder, Carl Butzirus, LaVerne Canham, Milton Colthurst, Walter E. Davis, Clarence L. Dowse, Emil E. Dorsett, John C. Gooding, Joseph V. Griffin, Chester L. Jackson, Roy B. Johnson, James Malone, Rev. Eugene McCarthy, George McGinnis, Charles B. Moore, Dale E. Nettlingham, Irvil E. Rogers, Irwin T. Roberts, Carrel J. Statler, Clarence L. Wagner, and Raymond Webster.

The purpose of the Club is "Service," particularly for the benefit of the blind and for the prevention of blindness.

In 1970, St. Joseph's Parish, Cabery, with Rev. Edwin Joyce, pastor, gave the Kempton-Cabery Lions Club a building which was greatly deteriorated. The Club raised money to put the building in use again. They repaired the roof, installed rest rooms, partitioned off a kitchen, and equipped it with serving counter, cupboards, stove, sink, refrigerators, grill, and deep fryer. After this they were able to use the building for meetings and other fund-raising events. They have put a new front in the building, new wiring, fluorescent lights and an air conditioner.

The community has supported the Club and are also benefiting by being able to use the hall. A 4-H Club and the Order of Eastern Stars have meetings here. It is also used for showers, receptions, to serve funeral dinners, to hold Summer Bible School classes, and other public events.

Some of the organizations to which the Club contributes financial support are: Hadley School for the Blind in Chicago, Leader Dog School in Rochester, C.A.R.E. in Lions, Illinois, Dialogue, Camp Lions, Glaucoma, Mentally Retarded, and the Lions of Illinois Deaf Program.

Locally the Club sponsors such special programs as: Little League baseball since 1964, Homecoming Days for Kempton and Cabery 1966-1975, Glaucoma tests for the community, Benefits for three families who had extraordinary expenses because of illness, Eye glass collections, Foreign student exchange, Special Education scholarship, Euchre parties during the winter months, and sponsor a player on the Cabery Cobra Hockey team.

Some of their fund raising events have been: Street sales and raffles, broom sales, donkey basketball and baseball games, pancake breakfasts, fish fries and stag, and candy day.

The present officers are:

President	Glen Hansen
1st Vice-President	Robert Peacock
2nd Vice-President	Jack Bergan
Secretary	George Edwards
Asst. Secretary	Phillip Hughes
Treasurer	Francis Paradies
Tail Twister	Donald Murphy
Board of Directors:	
Merideth Drew	Gene Webster
Jerome Holohan	Eldon Sargeant
George Christ	Dean K. Benson

**The Cabery Junior Woman's Club**

—Submitted by Mrs. T. Wagner

The Cabery Junior Woman's Club was founded March 13, 1974 at the Council Room of the Cabery Firehouse. Fifteen women met and sixteen joined that evening.

Charter officers elected were: President, Mrs. Duane Lovell; Vice-President, Mrs. Terry Wagner; Secretary, Mrs. Bernard Cassidy; Treasurer, Mrs. Donald Warmbir; Publicity, Mrs. Terry Wright; Parliamentarian, Mrs. Francis Sadler, Jr.; Ways and Means, Mrs. Edwin Knittel; Program, Mrs. Robert Bouk; Projects, Mrs. John Gard and Mrs. Raymond Lovell.

It is incorporated with the 8th District of the Illinois General Federation of Woman's Clubs and received its charter May 15, 1975.

The purpose of this particular Club shall be cooperation in community service, so that by our united efforts, we may promote the welfare of our individuals in our community.

Many projects began, including the reopening of a Youth Center with a staff of complete voluntary help, also several good movies were enjoyed by all ages. Senior Citizens activities such as a shopping trip to Lincoln Mall, Christmas parties, various dinners, designed on days or evenings when no place in town was open for eating were also provided. Back to school parties for the kids with the Club members standing the kids in a game of Kitten Ball were held.

Two large Country Carnivals were held so far to raise money to improve the Cabery Community Park.

Ground breaking and Flag raising started the new ball diamond on which Little League was played last year. A new fence was built around the Clay Hole and further plans have been established for the development of the park for multi-uses. The park brought about cooperation between the Town Board and the community, as well as the Juniors.

Garbage cans were painted and placed in many

locations up town and general street cleaning before and after carnivals. This year the Main Street fire hydrants have been painted by members to look like little soldiers to create some bicentennial enthusiasm.

Working hand in hand with the Lions Club for a benefit for a local family in need, and the Cabery Firemen for a Stag to buy better First Aid equipment helped to promote more interest in a Red Cross disaster plan in the event of an emergency in our own or surrounding communities. First Aid courses have been completed by many of our members, as well as firemen, and at present six members of our community have received E.M.T. training with a future hope for an ambulance of our own, since we remain 25 miles from the nearest hospital.

This year the Club has sponsored one member of the newly formed Cabery Cobra Hockey Team.

Charter members are: Mrs. Carol Basham, Mrs. Robert Bouk, Mrs. Bernard Cassidy, Mrs. Harold Cassidy, Mrs. John Gard, Mrs. Jerome Holohan, Mrs. Phillip Hughes, Mrs. Francis Hummel, Mrs. George Juergens, Mrs. Edwin Knittel, Mrs. John Koerner, Mrs. Duane Lovell, Mrs. Raymond Lovell, Mrs. James Murphy, Mrs. Donald Murphy, Mrs. Francis Paradies, Mrs. Francis Sadler, Jr., Mrs. Harold Sippel, Mrs. Terry Wagner, Mrs. Donald Warmbir, Mrs. Gene Webster, Mrs. Dennis Webster, Mrs. Donald Wright, Mrs. Terry Wright.

**St. Joseph's Council of Catholic Women**

This was organized near the turn of the century as The Altar Society. It was reorganized in 1910 with the married women as The Altar Society and the young ladies as The Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The main purpose was the care of the Sanctuary and to purchase Altar needs or anything needed in the Sanctuary.

In the early sixties it was changed to The Council of Catholic Women all over the Nation, all women being members. It is divided into five Commissions: Organization Services, to assist the chairman of all C.C.W. Commissions in organizing, planning, legislation, public relations, and publications; Church Communities, to help create a community of God's people that is educated and dynamic. A program of study and action in the areas of scripture, liturgy, and ecumenism. See that a C.C.D. program is provided; Family Affairs, to assist all parish members in achieving true Christian family living. Its program is concerned with child and parent education, preservation of family unity, care for the aged, and the right to life of the unborn; International Affairs, to awaken in all Christians their awareness of their responsibility to the international brotherhood of all people; and Community Affairs, to involve members of C.C.W. in working with other

organizations to answer the needs of their individual communities.

Current officers are: Chairman, Mrs. Donald Murphy; Vice Chairman, Mrs. Jerome Holohan; Secretary, Mrs. Paul Malone; and Treasurer, Mrs. Donald Koerner.

#### United Methodist Women's Unit

Under the leadership of Mrs. Amy Merrill, Miss Eva Peterson, Mrs. Ada Penfield, and Mrs. Libby Richardson, all Sunday School teachers of the Presbyterian Church, the Ladies Social Circle was organized in 1886. It was later called The Ladies Aid.

They earned money through sewing, suppers, and various other means so that they were able to apply a sizable amount toward purchasing the lots for the Church and the Manse of the Presbyterian Church.

In the fall of 1889 they had raised enough money to build the Manse at a cost of \$450.

A branch of the Ladies Aid called the Co-Workers, consisting of the young women of the parish, helped.

February 16, 1964, when Kempton and Campus united with Cabery to form the United Methodist Church, it became known as the Women's Society of Christian Service, the Cabery Methodist Women's Unit. They are still very active.

The present officers are: President, Mrs. Dale Murphy; Vice President, Mrs. George Juergens; Secretary, Mrs. LaRoy Clapp; and Treasurer, Mrs. Ronald Sadler.

#### The Cabery Specials 4-H Club

—Submitted by Eldon Sargeant

"The Cabery Specials," a boys and girls 4-H Club, was founded by Eldon Sargeant, December 18, 1940. Its charter was awarded by the United States Department of Agriculture and the University of Illinois.

Eldon Sargeant was its leader and still is today, just having received an award for thirty-five years of excellent service.

It began with ten members the first year. The officers were: President, Wanda Nelson; Vice-President, LaRoy Clapp; Secretary-Treasurer, Keith Lamb; Reporter, Thomas McGinnis; and Recreation Chairman, Eileen Gish. The other members were John Christ, George Christ, Mary Ruth Christ, Joseph Pefferman, and Marjorie Pefferman.

The object of this Club is to interest young people in better practice in farming and homemaking through club projects, and in helping them in learning to work and play together.

Special projects are many, including maintenance of farm equipment, buildings, and grounds, raising farm crops, forestry, gardening, fruit crops, and honey production. Raising of cattle, horses, sheep, swine, rabbits, poultry, dogs, and cats. Also soil improvement, wild-life conservation, besides arts and crafts of all kinds.

Current leaders are Eldon Sargeant and Dale Sargeant. Officers are: President, John Sargeant; Vice-President, Mike Richie; Secretary-Treasurer, Colleen Richie; Reporter, Karen Harris; Recreation, Wayne Marti and Kathy Harris; Federation delegates, John Clapp and John Sargeant.

# IX

## Village of Reddick

Two "R's" were important in the early history of Reddick, railroads and a man named "Red" Dick.

Two railroads were constructed about 1879 forming an intersection where the Village of Reddick now stands. *The Wabash Railroad (now the Norfolk & Western) went from Chicago to St. Louis.* The second railroad ran in an east and west direction and was called the Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa Railroad, often referred to as the Three-I-Railroad. Later it became the New York Central, and now in 1975, the Penn Central.



Photo Courtesy of Floyd Leeneman

At this railroad intersection a business center for the rich agricultural "Prairie Land" was destined to develop. Because the portion of land to the southeast of this intersection seemed to be the best because of drainage, settlers began building there. This placed the Village of Reddick in Norton Township, Kankakee County.

Various names were suggested for this settlement. However, many of the inhabitants remember a jovial, congenial fellow who had directed

the building of the "Three-I-Railroad" from Streator to Momence. He had red hair and his first name was Dick. So he was known by his nickname as "Red" Dick. The majority of citizens were happy to name the village Reddick, thus saving hard feelings among the older citizens whose names had been mentioned.

Reddick was incorporated October, 1890. The officers at that time were: President—James Rielly; Clerk—John T. Dooling; Trustees—John Ambrose, W. G. Bloxam, John Graf, Karl Schmidt, Andrew Peterson, and Ely. A. Oakes.

At the time of incorporation, Reddick had a population of approximately 400 with several business enterprises including: a tile factory, two grain elevators, a millinery and dressmaker shop, a general store, livery stable, two hotels, lumber and coal business, barber shop, a blacksmith shop, and others.



Photo Courtesy of V. Shimmin

In 1895, a fire that started back of the M. F. Rielly General Store destroyed the entire block of business places.

The Reddick Tile Factory was started in 1890 by A. S. Currie. The land was purchased from R. D. Shelly. A good grade of red tile and brick was made that would withstand freezing and chipping. This factory ran for a number of years until the top clay ran out and no more land could be bought. Two large ponds were left that provided a place for ice skating in the winter and a bird haven in the spring and summer.

The first hotel was built in 1888 east of the Wabash Railroad on Main Street by M. F. Rielly and the second hotel was built in 1895 and operated by Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Johnson. After the coming of automobiles the hotel business dwindled. Finally, the hotel buildings were torn down.

There were three churches in the Village. St. Mary's was constructed in 1899. Before the church was built, parishioners met in homes. Roads were so bad it was difficult to travel very often to other churches. The home of Michael McGinnis who came to Norton Township in 1866 was a home frequented for Mass. Father Spellman was the first priest. The church has been well cared for and has been newly remodeled.

Reddick Methodist Church had its start in a country school three miles southeast of Reddick. The first Methodist Church was constructed in 1899 and the cornerstone laid June 9, 1899. The first pastor was Rev. H. Coolidge.

The Reddick Immanuel Evangelical Church was built one mile north and one-half mile east of the Village in 1893. It was moved to the village in 1907. The first pastor was Rev. B. B. Wagner.

The fourth church in the community was erected in the summer of 1874 and dedicated in the fall as the Zoar Evangelical Church, as it was one of the congregations of the Grand Prairie Circuit of the Illinois Conference of the Evangelical Church. Rev. Wm. Neitz was the pastor in charge.

The Zoar and Reddick Evangelical Churches were united in a circuit in 1927. The three Protestant churches united and became the United Methodist Church in 1968. A new Reddick United Methodist Church Building was built in 1971.

Later a new Zoar Community Church was erected north and east of Reddick on Route 17 and was dedicated in 1974.

The first school in the Village of Reddick was built in 1902. There were two rooms and a library. The first teachers were Miss Nellie Shimmin and Miss Cora Neilson. Later the library was changed into a third classroom. A two year High School Course was added.

In 1915, the four year high school course was added and the high school was completely removed from the grade school building to the Century

Building. E. C. Waggoner was the first principal of the four year high school.

In 1919, Reddick Community High School was organized and the high school building was constructed in 1921.

In 1946, consolidation of twelve and a half school districts united to form the Reddick Community Consolidated School, and the original Reddick Grade School District #142 became District #255. The grade school had been remodeled twice to provide necessary classrooms—in 1947 and 1949.

In 1950, the communities of Reddick, Union Hill, Clark City, and Essex voted to establish a Unit School District. The elementary schools were each separate districts. The Reddick Community High School was a separate district but had included the territory of the above elementary schools.

The vote for a Community Unit passed and Campus School joined the Unit later. The name chosen for the Community Unit was called Reddick, Union Hill, Clark City, and Essex Community Unit. That name was shortened to R.U.C.E.—obviously using the letters of each of the former schools.

George O. Main became Superintendent. (He had been the Superintendent of Reddick Community High School for many years prior to the forming of the Unit.)

Members of the Board of Education were: Orville Warren, President; Vernon Schrock, Secretary; Corwin Shelly, Rolland Schultz, Alvin Unz, Leonard Schultz, and Arnold Anderson.

Since the Unit was formed the following rooms and buildings have been constructed: a First Grade Room, a Kindergarten Room, Junior High School Building, Administrative Center Building, Art Room, and Music Room.

1975-1976—LeRoy Wright—Superintendent

Members of Board of Education: Clarence Moranski—President, Robert Geiger—Secretary, Kent Schott, Paul O'Brien, Joseph Naretto, Clifford Steichen, and John Wepprecht.

#### OLDEST HOME IN REDDICK COMMUNITY

One of the first homes to be built in the Reddick Community, is a home that at one time provided lodging for 14 persons. This home is one mile east and one mile north of Reddick. It has been remodeled and is well kept.

The house was constructed in 1857 or 1858. It was on October 14, 1857 that Mr. and Mrs. Jacob William Unz and family and Mr. and Mrs. George Feller and family arrived in Illinois from Louisville, Kentucky.

Those two families joined in the building of their two homes. The Unz home was built first. While the Feller home was under construction both families resided in the completed house.

## EXPLOSION

June 7, 1907 on the New York Central Railroad (formerly Three-I-RR.) a freight train made up of fifteen cars containing oil, naphtha, varnish, paint, dynamite, iron, lead pipes, and meat, was derailed opposite the tower of the Wabash and NYC railroads.

A hot box under an oil car immediately ignited. The blaze attracted many people from the nearby vicinity. Several people had reached the wreck when cars laden with dynamite were repelled by the flames from the oil car. Two cars of dynamite exploded, scattering a car of iron piping like chaff. Three men were killed and a score were seriously injured. Much damage was done in the Village as well as to farm homes in a radius of three miles.

## REDDICK WABASH RAILROAD DEPOT STORY

Henry L. Shelly owned some land needed for the Wabash Railroad. Mr. Shelly sold the land needed for the right-of-way and gave the portion of land where the depot was to be built. However, there was one condition—as long as Reddick exists, the Wabash Railroad Company must maintain a depot on that location.

*The depot is still standing.* However, since the Wabash Railroad is now owned and operated by the Norfolk and Western Railroad, citizens wonder in this Bicentennial Year 1976 how much longer the Reddick Depot will be in existence.



Dearest Fred, thou hast left us,  
And thy loss we deeply feel,  
But the God that hath bereft us,  
He can all our sorrows heal.  
  
Thou art gone but not forgotten,  
Never shall thy memory fade;  
Sweetest thoughts shall ever linger  
Round the grave where thou art laid.

Fred W. Hatting, died June 4, 1907, aged 19 years—killed by explosion at Reddick.  
Photo Courtesy Mrs. N. E. Hamilton



Photo Courtesy Floyd Leenerman

## TORNADO HITS REDDICK

On April 22, 1912, between four and five o'clock a severe tornado hit Reddick. Damage was extensive in Reddick and on surrounding farms.

The Hulse home one mile west of Reddick not far from the New York Central Railroad was

destroyed. Four members of the family of six were killed. The Dan Murphy home and New York Central Depot were destroyed. Many barns and sheds on farms were destroyed. Church sheds on the Methodist Church grounds were blown down. The sheds were where those coming to church from the country kept their horses and buggies. Many trees were uprooted. The most damage done by the tornado was within approximately one-half mile of the New York Central Railroad (now the Penn Central Railroad).

#### REDDICK NEWSPAPERS

The *Reddick Telephone*, a weekly newspaper, was the first newspaper. It was published by Frank H. Robertson. Later *The Reddick Courier*, a weekly paper, was published by Schutz Publishing House in Emington, Illinois and is still published.

#### THE CENTURY BUILDING



Oddfellows and Rebekahs, Reddick, Century Building in background, circa 1910.

Photo Courtesy Mrs. N. E. Hamilton

The *Century Building* in Reddick was a large two story building constructed near the beginning of the twentieth century. It was located on Norton Avenue.

The first story was used for various businesses down through the years. There were Furniture Stores, Barber Shops, Grocery Stores, Pool Hall, Bowling Alley, and a Confectionary Store.

The second story had a large Entertainment Hall, and later on as roads improved and automobiles were more prevalent, people went to the movies in other towns. Then the Hall was used for a roller skating rink.

On the south part of the upper story was a Lodge Hall.

In 1915, the first Four Year High School was held where the lodge rooms had been. In 1922, a new High School building was completed.

Members of the Lions Club purchased the



Photo Courtesy Vernon Krueger

building and renovated the structure and have made it available to the community.

#### LIONS BUILDING

Reddick Lions Club was organized in 1965. The Essex Lions Club was the sponsor with Rolland Schultz of Essex, Illinois as the organizer.

The first officers were:

Clarence O. Gall	President
Irving Nelson	Secretary
Harland Tyler	Treasurer
Myron F. Schultz	First Vice President
Harold Kaeser	Second Vice President
James Halpin	Third Vice President
Kent Schott	Tail Twister
Eldon Overlin	Lion Tamer

After holding meetings in Reddick High School Cafeteria the club members decided to purchase the Century Building located on Norton Avenue.

The building was such that it had to be renovated. The Lions Club members took on the restoration project as a civic improvement. Many man hours went into making it a useful building for the community.

The building now has a large room where the members hold their meetings, as well as other organizations such as Reddick Fire Department, Firebelles, Reddick Twig, Senior Citizens, and family reunions.

A large, well equipped kitchen is also an important room in the building.

In 1975, an extra storage room has been added at the rear of the building.

The officers for 1976 are:

Gerald Anderson	President
Laverne King	Secretary
Bruce Boyer	Treasurer
Roger Boyer	First Vice President
Omer Halpin	Second Vice President
Norman Grob	Third Vice President
Joseph Forneris	Tail Twister
Joseph Kersch	Lion Tamer

#### REDDICK COMMUNITY

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

The Reddick Community Fire Department was organized in 1965. Board of Trustees now are C. Ray Prussner, Lavern Graf, Norwood Shelly, Edward Rieke, LeRoy Rieke, Robert Brooks, and Louis Mombrum. Robert Brooks is Fire Chief and Irving Nelson is Assistant Fire Chief.

#### THE ELECTRIC PLANT

The first Electric Plant was opened in Reddick in June, 1906. Steam power was used in the beginning. It was owned and operated by N. E. Hamilton, Jr. and Sr. The Hamiltons continued to supply Reddick community with electricity for twelve years. Bert Johnson purchased the plant and operated it until 1923 when the Public Service Company (now Commonwealth Edison) began to supply electrical power to the community.

#### REDDICK WATER SYSTEM

In 1953, the Reddick Water System was begun and completed in 1954. A deep drilled well supplies the water not only for the village and the new subdivision but many farmers haul water during dry seasons.

The Mayor at that time was Ferd Rieke.

#### REDDICK OUTDOOR LIGHTED RECREATION CENTER

The Village of Reddick purchased the lot south of the Reddick Lions Building from the Lions Club for a fee of \$1.00. On this lot two tennis courts were made, basketball hoops were placed on two sides of the tennis courts. Facilities for flooding the courts for ice skating in the winter were made available.

The young people and the young at heart make much use of the Recreation Center during most of the year.

The area is lighted and has an all weather surface.

Reddick High School Physical Education Classes use the tennis courts in the spring.

Present officers of Reddick are: President—James Halpin; Clerk—Mrs. Rosemary Brooks; Treasurer—Mrs. Geraldine Joyce; Trustees—Robert Brooks, Lavern Graf, Marian Mathison, James McGinnis, Richard Forneris, Russell Studley.

#### AGRICULTURE IMPORTANT IN REDDICK COMMUNITY

The rich, black, loam soil so ideal for producing abundant crops including corn, oats, wheat, and now soy beans was once the "Lone Prairie" over which roamed the buffalo.

Today the level prairie lands have all been plowed and the land, our greatest natural resource, has made possible the fine homes, good schools, and the churches in our community for which we can be justly proud and grateful.

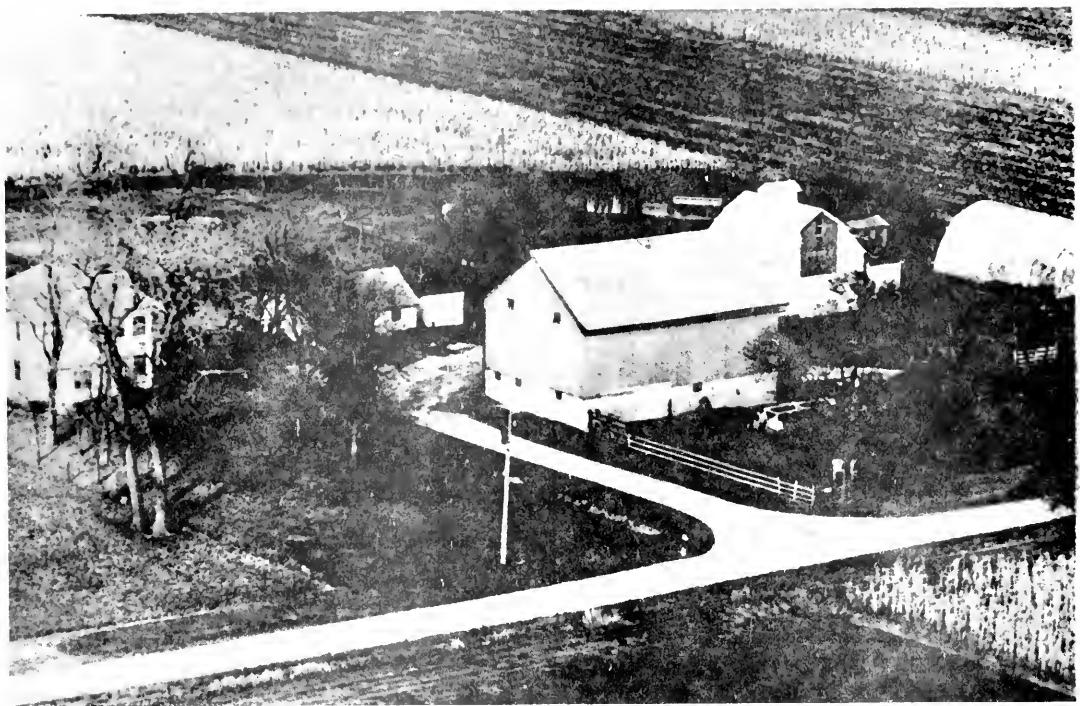
With improved methods of farming, modern



Reddick Street—Town pump in foreground. Left to right: ?, Ed Riordan, Dan Buckley, Tommy Smith, Neil Pedersen, Bert Bowers, ?, Rufus Jackson, town marshall; Emil Gonderman.  
Photo Courtesy of Mrs. N. E. Hamilton



M. F. Reilly and Co. Store  
Photo Courtesy of Floyd Leeneman



*Photo Courtesy Raymond Prussner*

machinery, hard surfaced roads, automobiles, trucks, etc. farmers now plant and harvest their crops in much less time.

Many farmers and their families find time to travel. Some find time in the slack season on the farm to obtain work in factories in Kankakee, Joliet, Pontiac, and other places.

There were many dairy farmers in the Reddick Community and many farmers who sent their grain to market "on the hoof."

Now in 1976, there are few *dairy farms in the Reddick Community*. One dairy farm near Reddick is the *Raymond Prussner Farm* two miles east and one mile south of Reddick.

Residents of Reddick Community might say

with the poet, Oliver Weaver Ridenour:

Here on this spot, some years ago,  
Home-loving folks resolved to build a home.  
Courageous souls, they labored hard and long  
To found this town. Not on high hills, as Rome,  
Was this town built, but on a level space  
Where one can see the far horizon's glow.

The backbone of the great United States  
Is not a noisy metropolis,  
But all the small towns scattered far and wide  
Across our nation; Villages like this,  
Our home town, and the quiet country-side  
Close by it. Here folks live and work.



**Stage of Opera House (Gonderman's Hall) Reddick**  
Photo Courtesy Mrs. N. E. Hamilton



**Procession to 4th of July School Picnic—Reddick**  
Photo Courtesy Mrs. N. E. Hamilton



**Kankakee County Championship Baseball Team—Summer 1921. Reddick Area.** Back Row: left to right Edward Meisenbach, Sr., Steve Bolloto, E. R. McLane, manager, Bert Bloxam, Howard Dunn; Front Row: Lloyd Savage, Earl Adams, Laurence Savage, Carl Dornburg, Gerald Halloran, "Cappy" Schultz, Art Weis.  
Photo Courtesy of Howard Dunn

# X

## Village of Union Hill



*Union Hill. From left—Schobey House, later owned by Frank Dittus and now by Mrs. Florence Adams; long building Schobey store, later owned by Van Petten and finally by M. A. Daly. Two dark buildings to left of track implement sheds of Thomas Houghton; railroad station on east side of street along track. On north side of street A. G. Smith Hardware Store, presently Van Voorst Lumber Co.; White building; open space, C. C. Ruley, grocery; Tattro house.*  
Photo Courtesy of Raymond Beauclerc

The village of Union Hill was incorporated in 1903, and the first board of trustees meeting was on February 8, 1904. George Van Voorst was the first board president, and the first trustees were A. G. Smith, Henry Weseman, Arsene Beauclerc, William Nordmeyer, Fred Wepprechrt and John Daly.

In 1976 Gilbert Van Voorst is board president, Art McClure, town clerk, trustees, Dan Ryan, Leo Parks, LaVerne Sutter, Hugh Van Voorst, Ray Jones, and Kenneth Brown.

Much of the history of the Union Hill area is connected with John E. Schobey who is credited with naming the town. He was, however, a resident of Essex Township. Mr. Schobey was born in Cayuga County, New York in 1819. In 1849 he moved to Racine, Wisconsin and was engaged in the hardware business for two years. In 1854 he came to Kankakee County and to Essex Township the following spring.

The first post office was established on August 27, 1861 on the farm of Mr. Schobey, who was the first postmaster. The country was agitated by the War of Rebellion at that time, and Mr. Schobey was determined to embrace the word "union" in

proposing a name for the post office, meaning by it the union of the north and south. Several names were proposed to the Post Office Department at Washington, among them Union Grove, referring to the first grove planted on Mr. Schobey's place. This was rejected, another office in the state already bearing the same name. Finally Union Hill was adopted, alluding to a slight elevation or hill on the farmland.

According to older history books the post office was moved from Mr. Schobey's to John Pratt's place, on to Ed. Albert's place, and finally to the station of Union Hill at the completion of the Indiana, Illinois & Iowa railroad in 1883. The postmaster received his pay by the cancellation of stamps.

For a time there was a rural route from the Union Hill post office. A. T. Dyer and Edward Desens



*John E. Schobey, founder of Union Hill Post Office  
Photo Courtesy of Charles W. Cook*

# Union Hill Has tiny Post Office

The **tiny post office** of the small community of Union Hill (10 miles west of Kankakee) was erected in 1882. It is a one-story, single room, brick house, 12 by 18 feet, built at a cost of \$100 by the postmaster, Jacob Testin. It is the only post office in the state of Illinois which is a model of its kind. It is a square building, 12 by 18 feet, with a gabled roof. The exterior walls are made of rough-hewn stone, and the interior walls are made of wood. The floor is made of wood, and the ceiling is made of wood. The windows are made of wood, and the doors are made of wood. The post office is located in the center of the building, and there is a small entrance on each side. The post office is open during the day, and there is a small entrance on each side. The post office is open during the day, and there is a small entrance on each side.



Kankakee Daily Journal Photo

were the carriers. Postmasters have included T. C. Schobey, Mary Ann Whalen, Perry Jarvis, A. G. Smith, Leo Desens, Althea Patchett, Rachel Hiddleston, Anna Van Voorst and Barbara Bumpous.

It is difficult to designate just what type of store each owner operated, as in the early days most places of business were really general stores.

John Robinson, who erected in 1882 the first building of Union Hill, a grist mill on the site of the present Van Voorst family home, apparently also had a dry goods and grocery store. A *Kankakee Gazette* item of February 24, 1887 states that Testin Brothers had bought the goods and rented the store of Mr. J. A. Robinson. They intended to have a large stock of groceries and dry goods. They had also bought the saloon of Pat Kinsley and were to apply for a license.

Mr. Robinson sold his mill to Mr. Cornwell. In November 1887 A. G. Smith purchased the mill building of Mr. Robinson and moved it near his residence for use as a barn. In March, 1888 George Van Voorst had purchased the J. A. Robinson lot containing about one-half acre adjoining the village and was building a house on it.

Mr. Robinson apparently retained ownership of the building in which Jacob Testin had his grocery store, as in May 1888 there is mention of J. A. Robinson's store being badly wrecked by wind, with six large windows being broken. This same store was

owned by C. C. Ruley in later years.

John E. Schobey had a grocery store on the west side of Main Street at the corner of the street paralleling the railroad. In 1887 Mr. Schobey had moved the Sam Seroy shop and dwelling to the lot north of his store to be used as a store room. The house was kept furnished for the use of the storekeeper or any of the Schobey family who did not care to make the trip out to the farm at night. This store was sold to a Mr. Van Petten and then later to M. A. Daly. The store burned around 1913 or 1914 according to the best memory of residents, but



*The Prairie Farmer Business Directory of Union Hill* published in 1917 still listed the M. A. Daly store. Discrepancy not resolved.

A. G. Smith, who had worked for Odell & Felton as grain buyer and built an elevator himself in Union Hill, was trained as a wagon-maker. He later opened a hardware store and in March 1888 opened an agricultural implement store. A *Gazette* item of Aug. 16, 1888: "August Smith is about to erect a building 13 x 40 in which he intends to open a full stock of hardware." In December of the same year Mr. Smith was busy receiving and unpackaging goods and would soon open with a general assortment of stoves and hardware. To this business he added groceries, dry goods, meat market, and Mrs. Smith had a nice assortment of dishes and glassware for sale. Mr. Smith retired about 1919 and the store was operated by Desens Brothers, Mr. Smith's daughter Alma being Mrs. Edward Desens.



A. G. Smith Store, Union Hill. Left to right—George Berger, Mrs. A. G. Smith, A. G. Smith, Edward Desens, ?. (From a card mailed in 1910).

Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Percy Cook

For the last fifty-nine years people in and around Union Hill have gone to "Sutter's Store." That spot and the lot north of it were the original location of George Van Voorst's lumber shed. When the present Sutter building was first erected Mrs. Fowler, wife of the station agent, had a millinery shop in it. Later Ernest Siegert came from Essex and operated a saloon there. The house north of Sutter's now owned by Ray Jones was the Siegert residence.

Edward Sutter went to Union Hill from Reddick in the fall of 1915 and worked with his brother-in-law, Edward Riordan, who had succeeded

Mr. Siegert in business. When the Riordan store closed Mr. Sutter with a little financial help was able to reopen the store. Through the years Mr. Sutter and his wife, the former Florence Hellmund, sold groceries, dry goods, gasoline and had an ice cream parlor, and cream buying station. In the early 1920's Mr. Sutter added near beer to his line and now has a tavern beside the grocery store.



Journal Photo

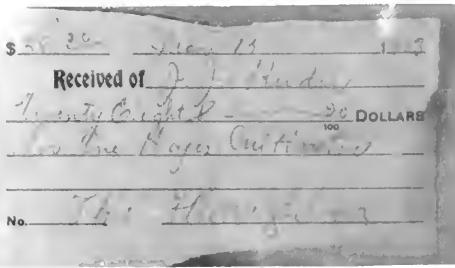
Taverns or saloons have been run by Pat Kinsley, Testin Brothers and Ernest Siegert. J. W. Warner, listed in the 1896 directory of Union Hill as a druggist, may also have been a saloon keeper. We have found instances of other saloon keepers being referred to as "druggists."

On the corner north of the Union Hill Implement Company in 1976 operated by Frank Patchett once stood an ice house. The ice blocks were obtained from the Berger-Kral pond. Edward Desens delivered the ice to homes in Union Hill.

*Kankakee Gazette* May 31, 1888—Union Hill—Houghton and Hollome have erected a building near Schobey's store 16 x 24 in size where binders, reapers and mowers will be transferred from the manufacturers to the people for a small consideration.

Studebaker buggies, Cassiday plows, Hayes corn planters and McCormick grain binders were sold by Thomas Houghton. In these days of astronomical costs of farm machinery, the following receipt should be of great interest.

There have been two banking establishments in



Courtesy Chas. W. Cook

Union Hill but for only brief periods of time. A deposit slip still exists dated Sept. 29, 1897 from The Bank of Union Hill, Samuel Van Voorst, President; George Van Voorst, Vice President and Cashier, of a deposit by Thomas Houghton.

For a short time around 1912, the Farmer's Bank of Union Hill was in existence. The bank building was beside Daly's grocery store. Perry Jarvis was cashier.

Just east of A. G. Smith's store was a building known as the "White Building." The color of the building was white, but apparently it was also built by a man named White. There was an apartment upstairs in this building.

Barber shops have been operated in Union Hill by Fred Larson, Frank Feller, John Baker, and Rosario Cataldo.

Frank Dittus, for many years a carpenter, at one time had a pool hall.

For a short time in the 1920's Lovell Brothers of Cabery had a garage which fronted on the alley east of Sutter's store. When the garage was discontinued George Van Voorst used the building for truck storage.

**Blacksmiths in Union Hill:** The 1896 town directory lists Byron Ambrose as blacksmith. An undated news item from Union Hill states that Hiram Aldrich (who was a blacksmith) was moving to a farm near Buckingham, and his place would be occupied by Byron Ambrose.

Charles Dasen, ancestor of the Desens, Baker and Henry Elmhorst families, was an early blacksmith.

John Heider may also have been a blacksmith in Union Hill, as Mrs. John Schott in 1900 was predicting that Mr. Heider's step-sons, the Dickman brothers, would be rated the best blacksmiths in this part of the state.

Arsene Beauclerc, who came from St. Paulin, Province of Quebec was in Union Hill from 1904 to 1911. Edward Beauclerc, brother of Arsene, came to

the United States at the age of seventeen to learn the blacksmith trade from his brother. When Arsene moved to Bourbonnais, Edward operated the Union Hill shop, and continued there as long as his health permitted.



*Blacksmith Shop—Union Hill—1908. Left to right—Arsene Beauclerc, George Weseman, Alonzo Peck, Charles Peck, Edward Beauclerc, Omar Beauclerc, son of Arsene.*  
Photo Courtesy of Raymond Beauclerc

The Beauclerc buildings were purchased by William Wepprecht in the late 1930's. For a time they were used for machinery and truck storage by Mr. Wepprecht and Lawrence Lochner. Later Mr. Wepprecht sold J. I. Case farm machinery. Frank Patchett purchased the business and continues it as Union Hill Implement Company.

*Kankakee Gazette*, Feb. 24, 1887—Union Hill—Earnest Gratty (our shoe maker) died on Monday, Feb. 14 after a long illness, aged 37 years. He was buried the following Thursday at the Lutheran Church on the town line. His widow would be glad to dispose of the stock and tools of the deceased. This is a good opening for someone.

*Kankakee Gazette*, March 24, 1887—Union Hill—Mr. Joseph Gielte has bought the Guest building and moved it on the lot west of August Smith's.

Nothing further is known of the people in the above news items.

The first ice cream available to Union Hill residents locally was a stand operated by Fred Larson, barber. Ice cream would be shipped to him Saturday night on the evening train and would be available on Saturday night and Sunday during the summer.

George Van Voorst, telegrapher and grain buyer, later added lumber, coal, hardware, furniture and all types of building supplies. He had a bridge building crew that built many of the bridges of the township, some of which are still in existence.



George Van Voorst Bridge Building Crew. Left to Right—Henry Elmhorst, Paul Dasen, Edward Dasen, Emil Dornburg; Below—George Van Voorst—Boys not identified  
Photo Courtesy of Raymond Beauclerc

Many houses and farm buildings were built by Mr. Van Voorst. After his death his businesses in Union Hill and Bonfield were continued by his sons Gilbert and Robert. Daughters Pearl and Anna helped in the Union Hill office. When barns and corn cribs were no longer in demand the firm turned to the manufacture of industrial pallets and boxes. Grandsons Hugh and Robert S. Van Voorst now operate the businesses.

The Jacob Dittus family provided carpenters for the community—William, Frank and David and their uncle, Theodore Hellmund built many of the area buildings. Mr. Hellmund, who came from Chicago, was an expert lather.

Martin Iffland was the local painter and paper hanger. He was assisted in his later years by his son Earl.

West of the Union Hill Farmers Cooperative Elevator, south of the railroad the Kankakee Service Company has a bulk plant for storage of gasoline and oil.

South of the railroad track toward the east edge of town George Van Voorst had lumber sheds. In the 1960's these sheds were taken down and on that site Swift & Company erected a bulk fertilizer plant. It was in operation only a few years. The buildings are now used by Cabery Fertilizer Company.

## UNION HILL HALL



Party at Union Hill Hall, 1910. Back Row: left to right—2. Elmer Oberlin; 4. Irvin Bossert; 5. Ben Brunner; 6. George Brunner; 7. Frank Wagner; Middle Row: 2. Leo Desens; 4. Frank Berger; 7. Laura Oberlin; 8. William Dittus; 11. Percy Cook; Bottom Row: 1. Carrie Hellmund; 2. Cora Brunner; 3. Pansy Hertz; 4. Marie Groebner Siemering; 5. Maude Schott; 6. Pearl Schott Geiger; 11. Lillian Fecke Diefenbach.

Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Percy Cook

Since 1895 the hall in Union Hill has been a meeting or gathering place for residents of the community. A warranty deed from Catharina Weseman to the Union Hill Hall Association of Union Hill # 97874 was filed for record in Kankakee 31st day of December 1895, Lot No. 10, Block Number 2 in the town of Union Hill. There were fifty-four shares at \$10 per share. The following were listed as the original shareholders:

F. Tatro, Jno. Wepprecht, H. Weseman, John T. Houghton, Charles Tatro, Alb. Dittus, Henry Soatman, Fred Wepprecht, Jno. Schmidt, And. Ruder, Art Bossert, A. G. Smith, Fred Dittus, G. W. Dittus, Geo. Van Voorst, Wm. Kroesch, Theodore Hellmund, Jno. Peter, Wm. Dittus Jr., E. F. Grabill, L. C. Berger, Charles Ruder, T. M. Davy, H. Steinhauer, G. Nugent, Wm. Alderson, Thos. Houghton, Chas. Schall, A. T. Dyer.

The building came to be known as Woodman Hall, but it was not the property of the fraternal organization. In 1897 the Woodmen paid an annual rental of \$40 to the Hall Association.

The Modern Woodmen of America Lodge was active for a number of years, and still bright in the memory of many Union Hill residents are the annual oyster suppers held on Halloween for members and their families. Mrs. A. T. Dyer, Mrs. Andrew Ruder Sr., and Mrs. Charles Ruder are among those who are recalled cooking large boilers of oyster soup.

Members provided other foods for the supper, but the lodge bought oysters, crackers, etc.

Royal Neighbors, the ladies auxiliary of the Modern Woodmen was also organized, but it was not in existence for too many years.

For several years the Woodman Lodge sponsored Euchre parties during the winter months. Then as now people came from all of the neighboring towns for an evening of friendly card-playing.

In 1937, the Woodman Lodge having disbanded, title to the hall was transferred by tax sale to the Union Hill Hall Association. Another list of subscribers who helped refinance the operation of the building included:

E. F. Sutter, Fred Wepprecht, Jr., Ray Schott, Mrs. Geo. Van Voorst, Omar Wepprecht, Russell Schott, Gilbert Van Voorst, Henry Harungs, Jesse Colman, Sarah H. Gunnerson, Pearl C. Cook, Union Hill Ladies Aid Soc., Charles H. Cook, Raymond Coash, Geo. Geiger, Mrs. Clara Seeger, Wm. Schlendorf, P. L. Cook, Maude Schott, Arlene Iffland, W. M. Wepprecht, Ralph Gray, Lorena Iffland, Fred Wepprecht, Marvin Dean, John A. Cain, Ray Beauclerc, Geo. Rellittle, John C. Martin, Mervin Dornburg, Ina Ruth Michael, Henry Schott, Chas. W. Cook, F. J. Steger, Soil & Crop Fund, Henry Schott, Treas., Union Hill Farmers Elevator, L. Rieke, Carl Dornburg, William Kroesch Jr., Ed Desens, Martin Kirchner Jr., National Sausage Co., John Grajn, Geo. L. Berger, F. O. Savoie & Co., A. Drolet, Oscar Ruder, Henry Weseman, Wm. Hiddeson, Clarence Hosier, Eddie Laporte, John Wepprecht, Wm. Balgeman, Union Hill Shipper's Ass'n., Helen Cook.

The trustees of this association were Henry Schott, William Hiddeson and Gilbert Van Voorst.

When the Lions Club was organized in Union Hill in 1969 title was transferred to them. Some remodeling and decorating has been done and kitchen facilities added. The building is still in use for meetings of the Union Hill Homemakers Extension Unit, annual meeting of the Union Hill Farmer's Elevator, and family gatherings as well as the Lions meetings and social events.

Eighth grade graduation exercises and graduation from the two-year high school were also held in the hall.

The history of the Union Hill Hall would not be complete without telling of some of the local clubs that have used it for their meetings. One of these was a club or secret lodge for young people known as "A.K.G."—the meaning of the initials being part of the secret. That secret was so well kept that no one remembers what they really stood for—just a nonsensical meaning of "All Kinds Go" being recalled. This club was in existence in 1904 when they were planning a hayride and two plays. No

roster of members has been found, but the following were known to be included: Grace and Maude Schott, Jennie and Etta Dittus, Bert Smith, Grace and Will Cook and Pearl Van Voorst.

The town of Union Hill never included a church building. The original Union Hill Methodist church was just north of the village in Essex township. The date of its organization has not been found, but articles in the Kankakee Gazette tell of the "circuit rider" minister of the Union Hill circuit, then comprised of thirteen appointments.

In the 1880's we read of the Rev. C. B. Allen beginning a series of protracted meetings, some of the young men providing a new stove, pledges being made for an organ. In May, 1887 the following were Sunday School officers: A. J. Young, Supt.; N. W. Young, Ass't Supt.; Miss Ella Houghton, Treas.; Elbert Snedeker, Secretary.

An undated clipping found in an old scrap book states: "The little M. E. Church which has survived and flourished for the past thirty years or more was ignored at the recent conference and no pastor sent."

After the church north of Union Hill was discontinued a Sunday School was organized to meet in the Woodman Hall in Union Hill. Mrs. Daniel (Addie) Schott was the first superintendent, followed by Amos Dyer. Mrs. John Schott, William Dittus, Mrs. Charles H. Cook and Mrs. Percy Cook also served as superintendents. Church services were conducted every two weeks by the Evangelical minister from Reddick as an outmission of his church. This Sunday School disbanded September 25, 1960. The Sunday School had Easter, Children's Day and Christmas observances.

There was a Ladies Aid Society that met regularly. Many quilts were made and quilted as well as other sewing projects for the annual bazaar and chicken supper. Meetings were held at the homes of the members and were enjoyed as social gatherings as well as work sessions.

The organization now known as Homemakers Extension Association began in Kankakee County as the Home Improvement Association in 1915. Mrs. John Schott of Union Hill was the Norton Township director on the County Board. Each director was to try to get one hundred members at \$1.00 per member. Mrs. Schott said she had an easier job than some of the directors because Norton Township contained four villages. The Union Hill Unit was one of the first organized in the county. No roster of charter members has been found but a picture taken July 2, 1925 of a picnic gathering for Home Bureau (as it was then known) members and their families at the John R. Schott home shows:



*Home Bureau Picnic, July 2, 1925 at John R. Schott Home.*  
*Bottom Row: left to right—Dorothy Fritz, Vera Baker,*  
*Theresa Fritz, Alice Schott, Bette Colman on tricycle, Harold*  
*Colman, Arnold Fritz; Second Row: Paul Colman, Victor*  
*Cook, Hartwell Milling, Mildred Cook, Ione Schott, Sherwood*  
*Berger, Kenneth Baker, ?, Helen Cook, Mervil Cooper,*  
*Raymond Geiger, Omar Wepprecht; Third Row: Caroline*  
*Baker holding Claude, Pearl Cook, Alice Cook, Hazel Colman,*  
*Emma Van Voorst, ?, Violet Hosier, Pearl Geiger holding*  
*Robert, Olive Cook; Back Row: Howard Milling, Will Cook,*  
*Albert Milling, Mary Van Voorst, Violet Colman, John*  
*Wepprecht, Mabel Schott holding Marilyn, Anna Fritz holding*  
*child, Percy Cook, ?, Pauline Milling, Eldon Colman, Lillian*  
*Berger, Elizabeth Wepprecht, Florence Sutter, Margaret*  
*Berger, Mildred Milling, ?*

*Photo Courtesy Mrs. LaVerne King*



*Kankakee Daily Journal photo*  
*Courtesy of Mrs. Raymond Beauclerc*

For a short time boys and girls in the Union Hill area had a Bird Club, probably in the early 1920's, the purpose being to study birds and the control of some of the less desirable types. Leaders of this club were Ruth Wepprecht Gower and Hattie Schott

Cenkovich. This club was a fore-runner of 4-H Club.

In the later 1920's the first 4-H club was organized, and 4-H clubs continued intermittently until the early 1970's. Remembered leaders and their assistants have included: Ruth Wepprecht Gower, Lillie Dornburg, Mabel Cook, Alice Schott, Helen Meyer, Rachel Hiddleston, Anna Van Voorst, Ruth Wepprecht, Mary Nesbitt, Lois Sutter and Betty Spraker. The club was first called Union Hill Loyal Troop. Later the name was changed to Modern Belles.

An area social club in the early 1930's for girls and young married women was called You Go, I Go.

A Birthday Club of the Union Hill ladies met for a time, and their project was to embroider their names on quilt blocks for each other. Completed quilts bearing all of these names are treasured by members still living in the area.

1887, December 22—Union Hill—John and

Joseph Kral will have a shooting

match here Friday, December 23.

Choice fat turkeys are the attraction.

While the above shooting was for domestic fowl, early settlers hunted and shot prairie chickens. By the 1920's the prairie chickens were no more, but a few years later pheasants were introduced into the area and now pheasant hunting season brings hunters from the cities by the score. Quail once plentiful are now very scarce.



*Winter Scene—Union Hill. On sidewalk, Edward Desens, Alma Smith Desens, Marie Groebner Siemering, Mrs. A. G. Smith; In cutter—left to right—Henry Elmhorst and Harry Dorweiler, brothers-in-law of Edward Desens; child not positively identified, probably Carl Desens; In background, Desens Home, now owned by Pat Baker, and A. G. Smith residence, later moved and now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Meyer.*

*Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Percy Cook*

During the days of horse drawn vehicles, winter entertainment included cutter rides and bob-sledding, as well as skating on the Berger-Kral pond.

January 1976 had an unusual amount of snow, and snowmobiling, in vogue for some time, became increasingly popular.

In this bicentennial year, many people are contributing something to the observance, and it is most interesting to note that in 1876 in a neighboring township a "15¢ examination" was held at the school house in District No. 2 on the eve of the 22d inst. It was a complete success, and the proceeds were to be applied to *centennial* purposes.

The Indiana, Illinois & Iowa Railroad was constructed through Norton Township in 1883. George Van Voorst is the first name we have found as station agent. He came from Reynolds, Indiana in 1885. A *Kankakee Gazette* item from Union Hill, March 10, 1887 stated: "Geo. Van Voorst, our station agent and grain buyer, took a four day vacation and visited friends in Indiana." In November, 1887 the *Gazette* reported that Mr. Van Voorst had fixed up his bachelor apartments (freight room of station) quite "toney." In April 1888 the *Gazette* stated that Mr. Swan, the present Union Hill station agent, had resigned his position and George Van Voorst would probably again handle the wires. Mr. and Mrs. Swan had been in Union Hill for over a year.

Other station agents have included Tom Davy, Mr. Fowler, Edward Baker, John Mazicko, E. J. Stallman, and L. E. Poynter.

In July 1888 Joseph Guyette had resigned his position as pumper at Union Hill. John Houghton held this position for many years.

Section foremen (railroad maintenance) have also lived in Union Hill. One of the earliest was Theophilus (Chalk) Tatro, who lived in a house on the street paralleling the railroad, the spot now being occupied by a Van Voorst lumber storage building. The Tatro family lived in the rooms on the second floor and the ground floor was a barn where horses were kept. This was a sort of livery or horse and buggy rental. People coming to Union Hill on the train sometimes needed to go to Essex, Buckingham or one of the neighboring towns not on the I.I.I. Railroad and could hire a buggy to take them to their destination. Mrs. Tatro, familiarly known as "Plutch" was in charge of the livery. When the livery was discontinued the house was cut in half and the rear section moved to the back of the lot for a barn. The remainder of the house was remodeled for family living. Later the barn was purchased by Frank Dittus and moved to his lot, which was the early Schobey property.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Dittus lived in the Tatro

house for a time and Mrs. Dittus operated the switchboard for the Union Hill Farmers Telephone Company. Other owners and residents of the house were Jacob Dittus, Ray Hosier, the Dewey family and Lora Eels.

Section foremen who have lived in Union Hill include William Kroesch, George Tracy, and William Buck, who resigned the position in June, 1888.

There were four passenger trains a day through Union Hill, two in each direction. The eastbound trains left Union Hill at approximately 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.; the westbound at 11:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Mail came into and left Union Hill on these trains.

This section of railroad has always had quite an advantageous freight rate for grain.

The Union Hill station was dismantled in the mid 1960's.



Union Hill Station. Left to right—?, Rose Jarvis, Lillie Geiger, George Geiger, Harry Daly, Charles Daly, William Cook.  
Photo Courtesy Mrs. LaVerne King

George Seeger had one of the first threshing operations operated by steam in the Union Hill area. His death just prior to threshing time created a problem for the local farmers, which was solved by about twenty farmers each buying a \$125 share in an association and purchasing the Seeger equipment—steam engine, grain separator, water wagon and corn sheller. William Nordmeyer was the first engine operator, followed by Fred Wepprecht, Jr. and Leo Kane. William Siemering and Percy Cook tended the separator. Charles Kirchman, Ray Schott and William Cook were among those who hauled water for the operation. William Cook, Percy Cook, and Henry Schott acted as secretaries of the group. A system was devised to take into account the number of acres of grain to be threshed and the number of helpers



George Seeger's Threshing Rig taken July 1910 on Houghton Farm

Photo Courtesy Mrs. LaVerne King

furnished. At the end of the season each farmer paid in or received in cash the differential.

It was customary to keep an engine man overnight so that he could be on hand to get the fire started and the steam pressure up in the engine to get an early start. Several hayracks would be left loaded at night and covered with canvas to provide dry grain for morning. As soon as the oats or wheat shocks were dry enough the bundles were loaded onto the hayracks and hauled up to the separator where they were pitched in with forks, the grain going into wagons and the straw blown into large stacks to be used for winter bedding for livestock.

The farm wife would provide breakfast for the engine man, lunch in the morning for the entire group, dinner, lunch in the afternoon, and supper. Since it wasn't always possible to determine where the group would be working at meal time, the ladies cooperated by sharing the labor and cost and carrying the food where it was needed.

Washing facilities for the men were large tubs of water set in the sun early to warm a little, wash basins, towels and soap on tables or benches.

Some of the farmers in the Union Hill threshing ring: William Nordmeyer, William Balgeman, Ernest Speckman, William Wrede, Edward Noffke, Will Cook, Henry Schott, John R. Schott, George Feller, William Schott, George Geiger, John Houghton, Peter Geiger, Martin Voigts, Percy Cook, Louis Siemering, William Schlondorf, Albert Milling, William Siemering, Carl Dornburg, John Wepprecht, Fred Wepprecht, Andrew Lauderbach, Charles Kirchman, Hobart Hertz, Frank Feller, Joseph Kral.

The group disbanded in 1942.

Rev. J. Meyer, writing of Union Hill in his Parish



Late threshing picture using tractor for power. Edwin Berger on blower; George Gaus on stack; Wm. Fredericks on bundle wagon. Note fly nets on horses, and windmill in background.  
Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Alvin Gaus

History stated "an open platform had been erected by Odell & Felton in 1882 to shovel grain into cars. Two years afterward an elevator was erected by A. G. Smith and operated for some years, then the interests were bought by the Farmer's Cooperative Grain Association. About 1898 the present elevator west of Main Street was built by A. G. Smith, the Farmer's Cooperative Grain Association having dissolved partnership. The other elevator is in connection with S. C. Bartlett & Company as already mentioned."

Not too much verification has been found for these dates. However, the *Kankakee Gazette* in 1888 carried a series of news items from Union Hill that tell of the founding of the "Grand Prairie Cooperative Grain Association:"

March 9, 1888—The farmers in this vicinity have concluded to organize an association to be known as "The Grand Prairie Cooperative Grain Association." The purpose of the association will be to buy and sell grain, flour, wire, twine and other commodities. The capital stock will be \$3000 divided into shares of \$50 each.

March 29, 1888—The directors of the Grand Prairie Grain Association visited Herscher for the purpose of making some necessary affidavits connected with the business of the association.

May 24, 1888—The Grand Prairie Grain Association failed to make a purchase of the buildings owned by Odell & Felton. The difference between the

parties was only some \$200. They will erect their own buildings.

June 7, 1888—Mr. John Reardon, a brother of Michael Reardon, an old resident in this vicinity, has opened up a boot and shoe repair shop in the building owned by Odell & Felton. This is the thing we have been needing.

July 19, 1888—At the meeting of the Grand Prairie Grain Association last week they contracted to purchase the Odell & Felton elevator and cribs for \$650. They will commence buying as soon as arrangements are completed. (Comment in 1976: If Mr. Reardon had time to open his shoe repair shop, his tenancy was short-lived!)

August 16, 1888—The Grand Prairie Grain Association have commenced buying grain. They are paying 24¢ for white oats and 41¢ for corn.

It is believed Garret Nugent was the grain buyer for the Grand Prairie Cooperative Grain Association. An undated clipping found in an old scrap book shows that the grain buying venture was not successful.

A biographical sketch of A. G. Smith states that he had worked for Odell & Felton before going into the grain buying business himself.



Union Hill Farmer's Elevator  
Photo Courtesy Charles W. Cook

The elevator of A. G. Smith was purchased by the present Union Hill Farmer's Cooperative Elevator

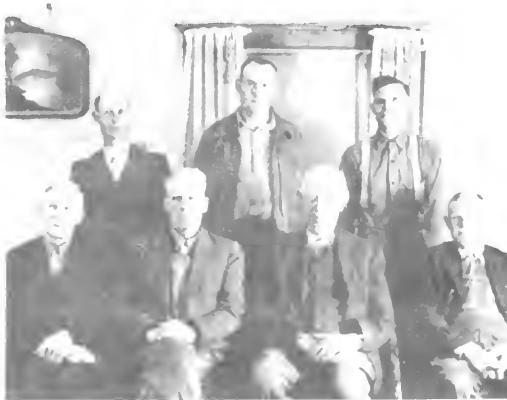
Company. The organization meeting for this company was held March 16, 1922 at Woodman Hall. The directors named in the Certificate of Incorporation were to serve as directors until the first annual meeting.

On January 22, 1923 the following officers and directors were elected: John Houghton, president; Fred Wepprecht, vice president; Louis Siemering, secretary-treasurer; William Siemering, Bert O. Smith, Charles Ruder, Ed King. Other men who have served as directors include: William Nordmeyer, Albert Stehr, Michael Emling, Herman Kirchner, William Balgeman, Henry Schott, Frank Diefenbach, Oscar Ruder, Carl Dornburg, P. L. Cook, Harold Berger, Albert Fritz, Leo Ruder, John Emling, Elwood Grob, Theodore Wepprecht, James Piper, Frank Fecke, Edwin Balgeman, LaVerne King, Duane Krieg, Ralph Grob.

Elevator managers have been Charles W. Cook, Arnold Wepprecht, William Wepprecht, C. W. Guest and Ronald Guest.

The elevator on the east side of Main Street was not locally owned. George Van Voorst, who came to Union Hill as a telegrapher for the old Three I Railroad later bought grain for Carrington, Hannah & Company, S. C. Bartlett & Company; Bartlett, Patten & Co.; and Bartlett-Frazier are owners found. Grain buyers for these firms included Adam Seeger, Charles Morse, and George Feller.

In 1976 there are again elevators on both sides of the street, both owned by the Union Hill Farmer's Cooperative Elevator Company.



Union Hill Farmer's Elevator Company directors—taken 1943.  
Back Row: left to right—Henry Schott, Oscar Ruder, Charles W. Cook, manager. Bottom Row: William Balgeman, John Houghton, Fred Wepprecht, Sr.; William Siemering.  
Photo Courtesy of Charles W. Cook

## UNION HILL TELEPHONE COMPANY

The first annual meeting of subscribers of capital stock to complete organization was held at Bossert school house (Salina Township) on February 5, 1904. The following directors were elected: A. M. Hertz, president; Charles Ruder, vice president; Edward Bossert, treasurer; George Van Voorst, secretary; L. C. Berger, G. M. Wagner and Dr. A. N. House. Charter fee by the state was \$30; telephone rental \$10 per year business houses, \$9.00 per year private residences—\$5.00 to be paid upon installation, thereafter rental to be paid semi-annually in advance. Original shares had a value of \$30 but were soon increased to \$40. On February 4, 1905 George Van Voorst was elected manager of the company.

The first switchboard operator in 1905 was Emma J. Clover.

In 1906 it was voted to charge ten cents for each call between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.

Harvey A. Dittus operated the switchboard from 1905 to 1907. In 1907 Theodore Hellmund contracted to operate the switchboard in his house, day and night service, for \$25.00 per month, the pay to be increased as new phones were added.

A line connected to the Reddick exchange was voted in 1906, and in 1911 a line was constructed to Herscher with limited Sunday service.

Jennie Dittus was hired to keep the books of the company in 1912. George L. Berger was hired as secretary in 1915 and served until January, 1947.

Bert Smith and John Hellmund are mentioned as the first linemen in the minutes of the company.

Lines extended to Bonfield, Essex and down to the Kankakee River near Warner Bridge. There was reciprocal service with Reddick and Herscher.

In 1947 the company was reorganized and refinanced with the sale of new shares of stock. It then operated under a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity until September 19, 1950 when the officers transferred the company to the Illinois Bell Telephone Company.

The following in addition to those named above have served as directors: Gust Berger, C. C. Kukuck, Charles Cook, G. M. Wagner, Simon Wagner, H. W. Dickman, Fred Wepprecht, Albert Stehr, H. W. Freise, Daniel Wingert, William Nordmeyer, Henry Buente, Nick Hines, William Nehls, Henry J. Wingert, Andrew Ruder, John Hansing, George Weseman, William Cook, Percy Cook, Joseph Emling, E. J. Fecke, William Diefenbach, John J. Ruder, Fred E. Wepprecht, William Wepprecht, Raymond Beauclerc, Elmer Yeates, Oscar Brunner, Henry Schmidt.

Switchboard operators following Emma J. Clover and Harvey Dittus have included Theodore Hellmund, Fred Dittus, Mrs. Clara Dittus Seeger,

Helen Brunner Meyer, and Rachel Hiddleston.

Excerpts from a newspaper clipping dated December 7, 1950 follow:

"One of the last remaining vestiges of old-fashioned rural life in Illinois—the farmers telephone exchange—will become a thing of the past in Kankakee County within a few months.

"Officials of the Illinois Commerce Commission at Springfield today gave permission to the Illinois Bell Telephone Company to take over the territory now served by the Union Hill Telephone Company, which has been serving the Bonfield-Union Hill area 42 years.

"C. R. Hamilton, Kankakee manager of the Illinois Bell, said the change-over will take place within the next few months as soon as Bell finishes installation of additional lines to the area.

"The Union Hill company had approximately 150 subscribers until last Easter when a sleet storm disrupted Bonfield service which has never been restored completely.

"The Union Hill firm was formed four decades ago to serve farmers in the western portion of Kankakee County. Originally a mutual company, the exchange was organized as a corporation two years ago. At one time the Union Hill company also served the Herscher area."

Reminiscent of Meredith Wilson's "Music Man" was a band organized in Union Hill including the sale of musical instruments. The band instructor probably had more talent than Wilson's Prof. Harold Hill, but the band did not make much progress.

In the 1920's and 1930's patent medicine shows traveled through the country. One held on a vacant lot in Union Hill extolled the virtues of "Seminole Indian Conyagida (spelling is the writer's), the New Life Balm." Votes toward a popularity contest for local young ladies were given with the purchase of the so-called medicine.

Union Hill people were very interested in baseball. As early as 1875 a baseball team from Union Hill played against the Modocs of Pogsonville. In the early 1900's the baseball games were played in the Van Voorst pasture in Union Hill. By the 1930's the games had been moved to the Dornburg Grove (the old Schobey farm).

During the 1950's Fourth of July fireworks displays were given in the Van Voorst pasture in Union Hill, financed by town merchants. Local families made it an occasion to entertain friends at picnic suppers, and cars lined the roads nearby after

dark to watch the exhibition.

## All Home Owners

JUNE 1, 1950

# Union Hill Residents Have No Interest In Rent Control

There is at least one community in Illinois which isn't too worried over what congress does with the federal rent control law scheduled to expire at the end of June.

The good people of Union Hill—all 70 of them—don't have to worry about that sort of thing because nobody in the entire village is a renter.

All 22 houses in the town and five business establishments are owned by the persons who occupy them.

What's more, it's been that way for the past three years or more, according to Ray Beaucler, village clerk. An exception was a period of about six months when a Union Hill resident moved away and rented his home for a while. The tenant, however, has now purchased the property.

### Pride In Homes

Beaucler said he doesn't particularly know why all the houses and business property in the town are occupied by the owners, but he

indicated that Union Hill residents take great pride in their homes.

Population of the western Kankakee county village has remained virtually the same for many years. Incorporated in 1903, Union Hill is located along the Kankakee belt line of the New York Central railroad.

The village boasts a store-tavern combination, retail hardware store, lumber company, implement business and grain elevator. And, of course, there's the railroad depot.

For good measure, the village has its own private telephone company—the Union Hill Telephone company.

*Kankakee Daily Journal*

# XI

## Miscellaneous Pictures



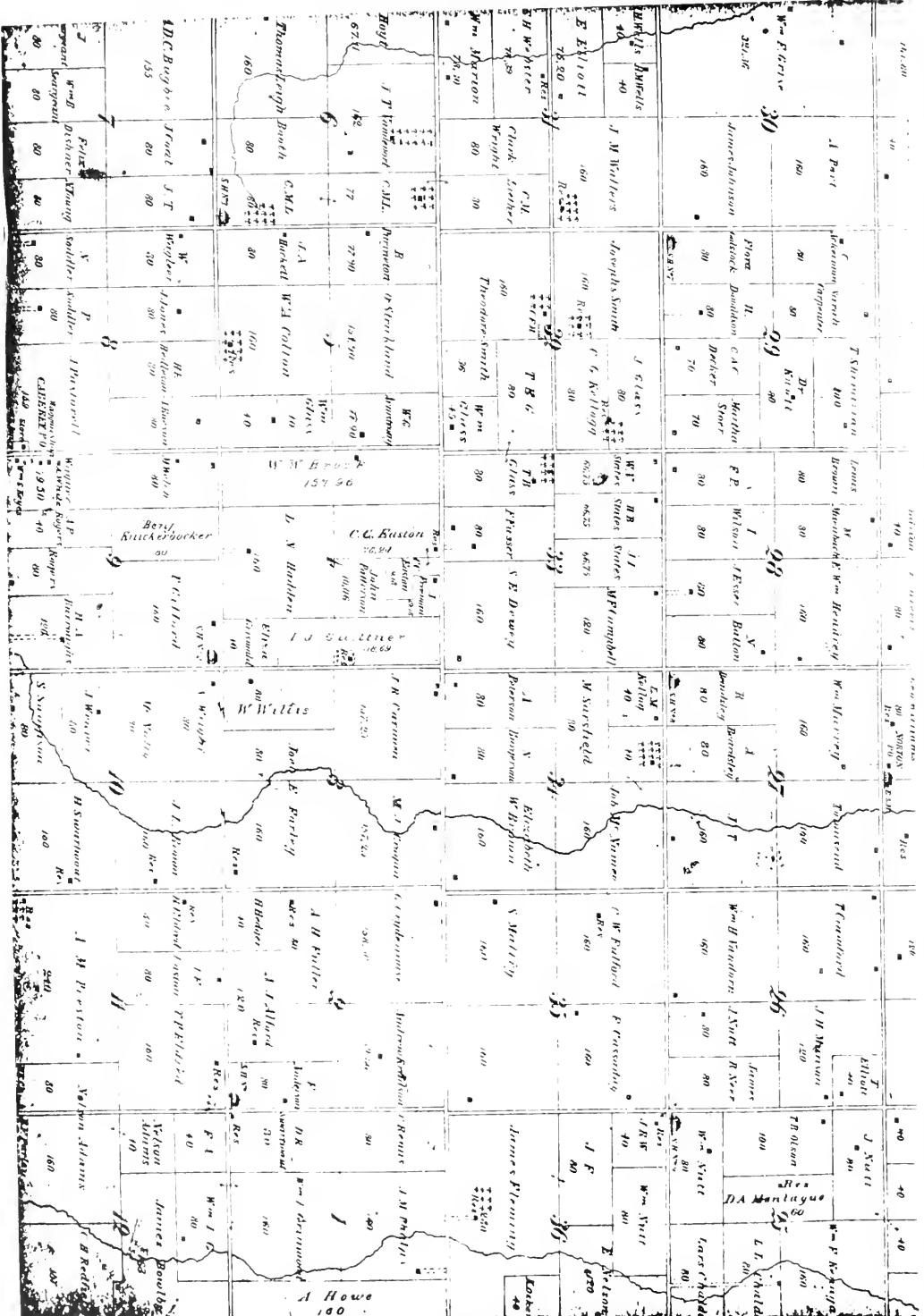
*Tornado 1911—Ellsworth Farm.  
Photo Courtesy of Charles W. Cook*



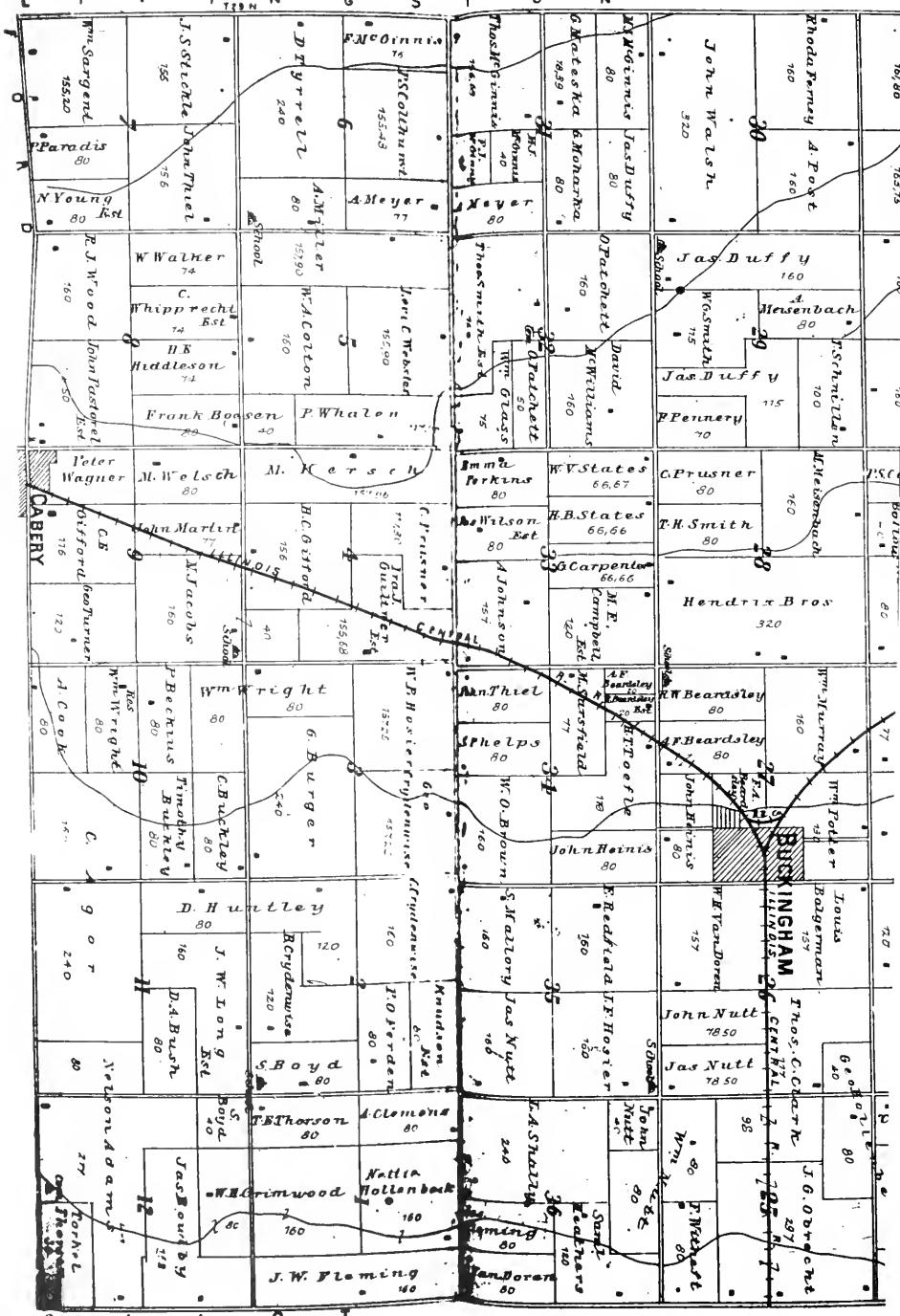
*Tornado 1912—Cornelius Riordan Farm. Farm destroyed and never rebuilt  
Photo Courtesy Charles W. Cook*

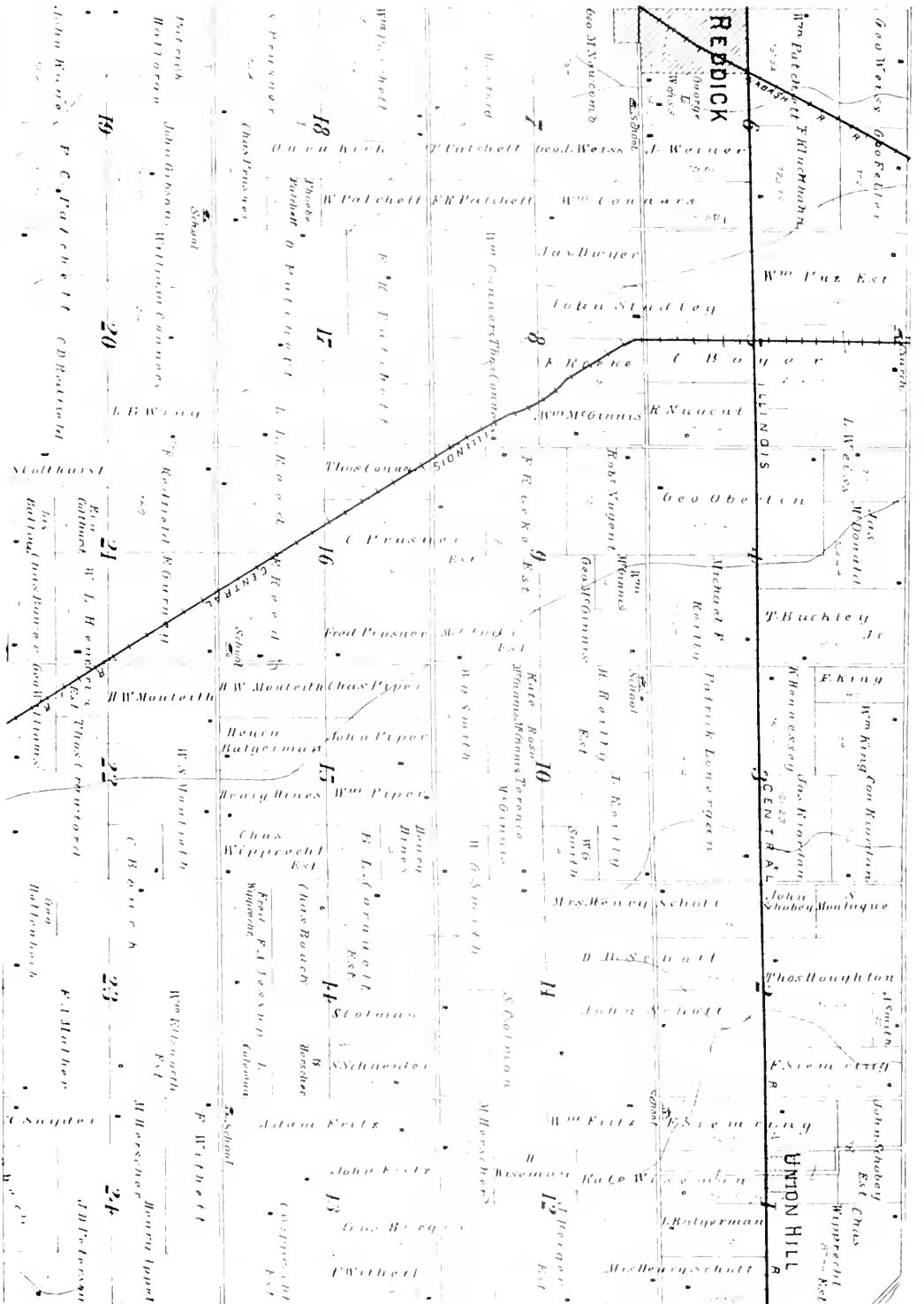
XII

Plats of 1873, 1899, 1973











# XIII

## Census of 1870 Combined with Plat of 1873

*Kankakee Sunday Journal*, June 21, 1953 (Centennial Edition) states that according to 1876 Atlas of Illinois, the population of Norton Township in 1860 was 251; in 1870, 1180. The ten years between 1860 and 1870 were the period of rapid growth in population. Families who had come earlier from New England, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania and settled in the northern part of state were moving to new land just opening up. Some people were coming directly from Germany, and the potato famine in Ireland had caused some Irish people to seek better living conditions in America. We find many Prussian families in the southwestern part of the township, Norwegian in the southeast and Irish in the north central. A check of the 1860 census of Will, Grundy and Kendall Counties would probably show many of the same families who were listed in Norton Township in 1870.

It would be impossible to list all of the residents of the township since its beginning, but to give a little background on the early settlers and show how some of the families are still represented, the 1873 Atlas of Norton Township and the 1870 census have been put together to give landowners and their families, how they were shown on the 1870 census, and how the property is shown on the Plat of 1973. A new plat book soon to be published will probably show further changes in ownership.

### Section 1

ABRAHAM J. YOUNG (193.21 acres) 49 b. New York, Polly A. 45, Whitford 23, Avery 17, Abram 15, Allen 8 all b. Ohio; Emma 3 b. Illinois; Frank Snediker (female) 20 b. Ohio. Present owner 95 acres John Wepprecht Estate; 98 acres Fred Wepprecht. A. J. and N. W. Young moved to Nebraska, but the family is still represented in Norton Township by the children of Dorothy (Chally) Scott who are great-great-grandchildren of Abraham Young.

J. E. SCHOBEGY (98 acres, no residence). Present owner: Louis Siemering.

FRED SIEMERING (51 acres) 30, Doris 32, Caroline 10, Henry 8, Fred 3, all b. Hanover; Jacob

Chilk 50 b. Cour Hesse. Present owner: Mrs. William Siemering.

PAUL MEYER(S) (80 acres) 35 b. Prussia, Mary 31 b. Canada; Celia 11, Lizzie 8, Delia 6 and Albert 3 all b. Illinois. Present owner: Mrs. William Siemering.

WILLIAM WISEMAN (WESEMAN) (128 acres) 55 b. Hanover, Sophia 55 b. Hanover, Fred 24 b. Hanover and his wife Catherine 18 b. Alsace. Present owner: Village of Union Hill and Kent Schott 80 acres. Weseman families now in the Union Hill and Buckingham area.

N. H. NANSEN (80 acres) 36 b. Denmark, Christena 30 b. Cour Hesse; Eva 13, Christena 10, Moriah 6, Margaret 4, Caroline 2, all b. Illinois. The Nansen family moved to Minnesota. Present owner: Clara Weseman Heirs. One hundred year old stone house on this farm.

F. NORMIT (NORDMEYER) (80 acres) Not found on census. Later obituaries state Nordmeyer family came from Hanover, Germany to Adams Co. Ill.; then to Union Hill in 1871. Present owner: Jewel Valbert.

### Section 2

JOHN H. TEMPLETON (40 acres) 60 b. Pennsylvania, Cornelius 61 b. New York; William Templeton 24 b. Illinois. Present owner: Louis Siemering.

HENRY TEAZEL (40 acres) 32 b. Hanover, Margaret 23 b. Hesse-Darmstadt, Herman 2 and William 7/12 b. Illinois. Present owner: Louis Siemering.

HARRIETT SMITH (20 acres) 39. Census gives birthplace as Indiana, which is in error. She was born in England, nee Hollome, m. Francis Houghton who was killed in Civil War; then married ALLEN M. SMITH 42, b. New York. Land owned for many years by Michael Clodi. Present owner: William Spraker.

THOMAS HOUGHTON (120 acres) 39, and Naomi 33 both b. England; Alice 9, Sarah 7, Hattie B. 5, Mary (later known as Libby) 1, and Martha (later known as Ella) 1/12 all b. Illinois; William Law 20, farm laborer, b. England. Present owner: Hugh Van

Voorst.

WILLIAM KELLY (62 acres) 35 b. Canada, Bridget 28 b. Ireland; John 9, William 7, Margaret 4 all b. Illinois. Land later owned by Thomas Houghton. Present owner: Hugh Van Voorst.

S. MONTAGUE (62.67 acres, no residence). Present owners: William Horner, Dominic Faletti.

J. E. SCHOBEGY (80 acres, no residence) Present owner: Anna M. Fritz.

EDWIN COPP (40 acres) 28 b. England, Esther 23, b. Indiana; Mark 1 b. Illinois. Present owner Anna M. Fritz. *Kankakee Gazette*, Feb. 18, 1875: "Ed Copps has returned from a three weeks sojourn in Texas. He says farmers were sowing grain and getting ready for corn planting. Ed has the Texas fever bad."

PAUL E. SCHOTT (80 acres and 120 acres, with residences) b. April 1806 Alsace-Lorraine; wife Mary (Meyer) Ebner b. Bavaria; Mary, Daniel and John children. Present owners: Alice & Lavern Graf; John R. Schott. All Schott families descendants.

C. H. COTTON (40 acres, no residence). Present owner: Mrs. William Siemering.

### Section 3

A. B. IVES (126.16 acres, no residence) Present owner: Joseph & Mildred Lardi.

WILLIAM KING (84 acres) 40 and Catherine 40 both b. Ireland; Margaret 7, Joseph 7, Sarah 5, Richard 4, Edward 2, Moriah 4/12 all b. Illinois; Kearn Devon 8 b. Illinois. Present owners: James King, Loretta Dunn. Family represented by King and McGinnis at present.

AMOS WILCOX (45 acres) 39 b. New York, Ann D. 26 b. Missouri, Benjamin 3 b. Illinois. Present owner: Percy Cook. 1878, Sept. 26 *Gazette*—Amos Wilcox and family going to Kansas, having sold his farm to William King.

JOHN HENNESSY (80 acres) 35 and Catherine 39 both b. Ireland; Winifred 7, Kearn 6, Catherine 4, Mary A. 2 all b. Illinois. Present owner: E. J. Frederickson Est.

ANTHONY SCHNEIDER or SNYDER (160 acres with residence, 80 acres without) 41 b. France, Ann 45 b. Ireland; Ann Nolan 18 b. Ireland; James Doulan 12 b. Illinois. Present owners—80 acres, Lehnus Farm Trust; 160 acres, Lehnus Farm Trust 80, Rosalin Geiger 80.

F. KELLY (80 acres) Census lists Edward Kelly 60, Ellen 50 both b. Ireland; Esther 15 b. Ohio; Michael 14 and Edward 12 both b. Illinois. Present owner: Lehnus Farm Trust. On this land once lived JOHN MULDOON 35, Bridget 32 both b. Ireland, Michael 14 b. Illinois. For many years a gravestone was near the fence of this property. Some member of the Muldoon household was buried there when it was impossible to be taken to a regular cemetery.

WILLIAM O'BRIEN (80 acres) 35, and Anne 35

both b. Ireland; John 13, Patsy (male) 8, Mary E. 10, William 6 and Peter 3 all b. Illinois; Timothy Dailey 13 b. Illinois. In census listing next to William O'Brien was

JOHN O'BRIEN 60 and Catherine 60 both b. Ireland. Present owner: Edward J. Frederickson Estate.

### Section 4

TIMOTHY BUCKLEY (160 acres) 50 and Bridget 40 both b. Ireland; Cornelius 16, James 14, Julia 12, Ellen 10, Daniel and Mary twins 8, Honora 5 and Timothy 1 all b. Illinois. Present owner: Dale King. Fifth generation Buckley descendants still in township.

JAMES MC DONALD (105 acres) 40 and Ellen 39 both b. Ireland; Sarah 12 b. Illinois; Mary Campion 75 b. Ireland. Present owners: Wayne and Gerald Schultz.

JOHN BROPHY (71 acres) 35 and Kate 28 both b. Ireland; John 2 b. New York, Lawrence 3/12 b. Illinois. Present owner: William Unz Jr.

THOMAS RILEY (100 acres) Present owner: Sherman LaCost.

J. P. JENNINGS (80 acres) Present owner: Eldon Oberlin.

F. REILEY (80 acres) Present owner: Eldon Oberlin.

MICHAEL RILEY (160 acres) 46 and Bridget 30 both b. Ireland; Mary A. 8 and Ellen 3 both b. Illinois. Land owned for many years by Michael Fritz. Present owner: Iola and Louis Mombrun.

### Section 5

J. KREBER (80 acres, no residence) Present owner: Wm. Unz, Jr.

CHARLES BOYER (175 acres, two residences) 40 and Anna 37 both b. Penn.; Irving 6 b. Penn.; Mary 2 and Ida Jane 4/12 both b. Ill.; George 15, Samuel 14 and Susanne 12 all b. Penn. Present owner: Bruce Boyer, great-grandson of Charles Boyer. Original house and barn still on this land.

WILLIAM UNZ (200 acres) 46 b. Wurtemburg, Mary 37 b. Hesse-Darmstadt; Elizabeth 15 b. Kentucky; George 12, Lewis 10, William 8, Edward 6, Emma 4, Anna 3, Caroline 1 all b. Illinois; Sophia Feller 67 b. Hesse-Darmstadt; Mary Kraft 26, seamstress, b. Michigan; August Rica 20 b. Prussia. Present owner: Gail & John Overby. Original Feller-Unz house still on this property.

H. STEVENS (220 acres, no residence) 1878, Feb. 28 *Gazette*—Real Estate Transfer: Herrick Stevens to Geo. & Mary Boyer eh swq 5 30 9 \$2000. Present owners: Nelda Tyler; Bruce Boyer.

ROBERT NUGENT (100 acres) 1880 census 45 and Bridget 33, both b. Ireland; James 8, Francis 7, Katy 6, Maggie 4 and Miles 1 all b. Illinois. Present owner: Wayne & Gerald Schultz.

## Section 6

GEORGE FELLER (106 acres) 44 and Elizabeth 46 both b. Hesse-Darmstadt, William 5 b. Illinois; William Raymond 11 b. Kentucky. Present owner: Raymond and Bernice Prussner. Mrs. Prussner is a granddaughter of George Feller. Part of the original house still stands on this land.

GEORGE WEIS (84 acres) 44 b. Wurtemburg, Doratha 32 b. Hesse-Darmstadt; George 9, Lewis 7 and Emma 4 all b. Illinois. Present owner: George A. Brunner Est.

FRANCIS MC GIRR (155 acres) 30 b. Canada, Judith 28 b. Penn.; Edward 3 b. Illinois. Present owner: B. M. Patchett Est. June 1888, Frank McGurr of Nebraska was in Reddick on a visit combining business and pleasure.

HENRY L. SHELLY (80 acres) 42 b. Penn., Margaret 39 b. Belgium; Elisabeth 19, Sarah 17, Rhinehart 14 and Matilda 11 all b. Penn. Present owner: Village of Reddick; Joseph Kersch. Henry Shelly, a grandson, a Reddick resident in 1976.

HESLAND (80 acres) Present owner: Lawrence & Louise Arends.

JACOB WEIMER (80 acres) 42 and Mary 47 b. Bavaria; George 11, Jacob 7 and Mary 5 all b. Illinois. Present owner: John Gussman; Elizabeth Patchett.

H. STEVENS (80 acres, no residence) Present owner: Elizabeth Patchett.

FREDERICK KLUCKHOHN (127 acres) 54 and Sophia 48 both b. Prussia; Fred 21 and Amelia 19 both b. Prussia; Sophia 14, Fredericka 8 and Henry 4 all b. Indiana. Present owner: Sherman LaCost.

## Section 7

H. STEVENS (160 acres, no residence) Present owners: Frank E. Connors; Lawrence & Louise Arends.

JAMES WILSON (169 acres, residence) Present owners: Lawrence & Louise Arends.

D. MULFORD (167.50 acres, residence) Present owner: E. D. Mulford.

P. PATCHETT (160 acres, no residence) Present owner: Madeliene Scott Est.

## Section 8

H. STEVENS (320 acres, no residence) Present owners: Eldon Oberlin 80, Mildred Unz 80, Gilbert Oberlin 80, Elizabeth Patchett 80.

GEORGE NEWCOMB (320 acres, no residence) Present owners: Frank E. Connors 160; Lucy Connors 160.

1875, Aug. 26 *Gazette*—Norton. The most of the prairie land on Sections 7 and 8 has been sold recently to parties at \$25 to \$30 per acre.

## Section 9

MICHAEL MC GINNIS (80 acres) 41 and Catherine 40 b. Ireland; Mary J. 15 b. New York; Thomas 11, William H. 8, Michael 7, Frank 5,

Terrance 3, George E. 2/12 all b. Illinois. Present owner: Mrs. F. A. Deutchman.

MYRON SHORT (80 acres) 29 b. Mass.; Bridget 34 b. Ireland; George Lillis b. Illinois. Present owner: Mrs. F. A. Deutchman.

JACOB FUNK (120 acres) 48 and Barbara 42 both b. Wurtemburg; Martin 20 and Barbara 17 both b. Wurtemburg; Sophia 11, Christiana 8 and William 6 all b. Indiana. This family still represented in the township by the Shelly and Rieke families. Present owner: Frieda Oberlin Est.

FREDERICK REAKE (now spelled Rieke, 160 acres) 51 and Lina 45 both b. Prussia; August 20, Fredinand 16, Mina 14 all b. Prussia; Louisa 11, Frederick 9, William 7, Charles 5, all b. Indiana; Emma 3 b. Illinois. Several Rieke families and descendants still in the Reddick area. Present owner: Howard McLane.

CHRISTOPHER PRUSSNER (120 acres) 36 and Mina 29 both b. Prussia; Henry 3 and Louisa 1 both b. Ill.; August Ricka 16, farm laborer, b. Prussia; and Frederika Ricka 58 b. Prussia. Frederika Ricka (Rieke) was the mother of Mina Prussner. Present owner: Prussner & Cook; R. A. Prussner, grandchildren of Christopher Prussner.

MICHAEL CLODI (80 acres) 29 b. Alsace, Anna 22 b. New York; Frank 5/12 b. Illinois. Present owner: Maurine H. Downey.

## Section 10

ENOCH COLES (40 acres, two residences) 47 b. Penn., wife Elisabeth 48 b. Penn.; Albert H. 22, Enoch 20, Theodore 18, Ann M. 16 all b. Penn., William F. 14, Christianna 12, and Elenora 8 all b. Ill. Apparently some of the family moved to Kansas as in April 1877 Mrs. Enoch Coles of western Kansas was visiting friends and relatives in Essex. Present owner: Robert Geiger.

ORVILLE SHAW (80 acres) 42 b. New York, Percilla 41 b. England, Robert 9, George 15, Mary 10, and Thomas 13 all b. Illinois; Austin Shaw 75 b. New York. In 1887 John Lonergan moved on the Shaw farm. Present owner: Robert Geiger.

P. RILEY (80 acres) 1876, Feb. 10 *Gazette*—Died in Norton Feb. 3, Patrick Riley; buried at Wilmington the 4th. Present owner: Lehnus Farm Trust. School house of Dist. No. 2 (Dublin) was on this land. Dublin school house has been converted to a residence.

FRED RILEY (80 acres, no residence) Present owner: Earl & Mildred Hertz.

MICHAEL BRODERICK (80 acres) 35 and Hannah 25 both b. Ireland; Henry 5, Margaret 4, Rosanna 2 and John 10/12 all b. Illinois. Present owner: Maurine Hertz Downey.

WALTER T. Vining (80 acres) 29 b. New York, Jane 26 b. New York; John Fitzgerald, teacher

b. Illinois. Present owner: Maurine Hertz Downey.  
HAMILTON JEFFERS (120 acres, 2 residences)  
37 and Viola 30 both b. New York; Edward 3 b.  
Illinois. Hamilton Jeffers died 1877 shortly before an  
anticipated move to Colorado. The census entry next  
to Hamilton Jeffers was

EMELINE COTTON 41 b. New York; Albert  
14, farm laborer and Ela 9 both b. New York. Later  
biographical sketch gives Albert W. Cotton as son of  
John S. and Emeline (Jeffers) Cotton. John S. Cotton  
came to Illinois in 1835. Farm once owned by  
Terrence McGinnis. Present owner: Earl & Mildred  
Hertz.

JOHN WILLIS (40 acres) 40 b. Penn., Jane 35 b.  
New York; Leonidas 15, Lizzie 13 and Chester 3 all  
b. Illinois. *Kankakee Gazette* of Nov. 29, 1877: Dr.  
Bateman has purchased the farm of John Willis and  
will move his house on to it this winter (from  
Pogsonville). Mr. Willis was thinking of going to  
Kansas in the spring. Present owner: Clarence Piper.

SMITH & CORNWELL (40 acres, no residence)  
Present owner: Clarence Piper.

#### Section 11

CALVIN H. COTTON (80 acres) 37 b. New  
York, Lucetta 28 b. Indiana; Blanchard 8, Jesse 6,  
Mary 4, Helen 2, Calvin 1/12 all b. Illinois. Present  
owner: Henry Schott 40, Russell Schott Estate 40.

JOHN KRAL (80 acres, no residence) Present  
owner: Henry Schott.

A. MC GREGOR (160 acres, no residence)  
Present owner: Anna M. Fritz 80, A. Graf 80.

WILLIAM G. SMITH (160 acres) 36 b. Ohio,  
Arabell 28 b. Ill.; Chester 5 b. Ill.; Henry Miller 22,  
farm laborer, b. Ohio; George Lillis 12, farm laborer,  
b. Illinois. Present owner: Joseph & Mildred Lardi.

SEMER COLMAN (160 acres) 36 b. New York,  
Alice 26 b. New York; George 9 b. Illinois. 1873 plat  
shows three residences on this property. Present  
owners: Violet Piper, Harold Colman and Eldon  
Colman; Russell Schott Est. 40. Original Colman  
house still stands on this land.

#### Section 12

THILA WILKINS (80 acres) 42 and Dorita 27  
both b. Hanover, Louisa 9, Bernhart 6, Henry 3 and  
Coline 1 all b. Illinois. Present owners: V. Weseman;  
Schultz & Weseman.

W. WESEMAN (60 acres, no residence) Present  
owner: Kent Schott.

HENRY BANKS (80 acres) 45 and Helen 45  
both b. Ireland, James 14, Mary 13 and Helen 9 all b.  
Wisconsin. Present owner: Helen King.

H. POGGERSON (40 acres, no residence)  
Present owner: Gross-Miller Farms.

H. NANSEN (60 acres, no residence). Present  
owner: Clara Weseman Heirs.

THOMAS WING (80 acres) 48 b. New York,

Mary A. 33 b. England; Charles 15 b. New York; Ann  
J. 12, Orrin 8, Henry 5, Grant 2 all b. Illinois; Ann  
Dutton 70 b. England. Thomas Wing moved to  
Frankfurt March 1877. Present owner: Gross-Miller  
Farms.

GEORGE PETER (40 acres, no residence)  
Present owner: Irwin Witheft.

H. VANAUULT (40 acres, no residence) Present  
owner: Elsie Boness Est.

JOHN BERGER (160 acres) 42 b. Saxony, Mena  
33 b. Hanover; August 19 and Amelia 16 both b.  
Saxony; Louis 9, Henry and Caroline (twins) 6,  
Johanna 4, Bertie 2, and Emma 1/12 all b. Illinois.  
Land later owned by Joseph and Lucy (Berger) Kral  
and presently by Frank Feller, son-in-law of the  
Krahs.

#### Section 13

CHARLES L. ABELL (160 acres) 27 b. Conn.,  
Jane 30 b. Ohio; Edward 7/12 b. Ill. Feb. 1875 Chas.  
Able disposed of his farm and bought 80 acres near  
the Center Church at Essex at \$25.50 per acre.  
Present owner: Darwin & Duane Witheft; Irwin  
Witheft.

A. FRITZ (160 acres). 1873 Atlas states Adam  
Fritz b. 1832 Bavaria, Germany, arrived Kankakee  
1854. Present owner: George Fritz Estate,  
(grandson).

COOLEGE E. PRATT (160 acres) 49 b. Mass.,  
Emily 36 b. Virginia; Charles Thompson 11 b. Mass.  
Present owner: Leroy Gerberding 119, Dale Boness  
40.

CHARLES WEPPRECHT (160 acres) 53 b.  
Bavaria, Margaret 29 b. Schlesweig-Holstein;  
Catherine 2 and John 1/12 both b. Illinois. Present  
owner: Otto & Lucille Fritz.

#### Section 14

JOHN J. MORGAN (80 acres) 45 b. Penn.,  
Sophonia 43 b. Virginia, Mary 17 b. Indiana, William  
16, John 14, Anna 12 all b. Wisconsin, Oscar 7 and  
Nettie 5 b. Ohio; Theodore Williams 20, farm laborer,  
b. Ohio; Andrew Snyder 21 b. Ill. and wife Laura 17  
b. Ohio. Present owner: Katie Schneider.

OTIS E. WILSON (80 acres) 49 b. New York,  
Mary 45 b. New York, Charles 19 and Walter 18 both  
b. New York; Ella 14, Cornelia 10 and Hattie 6 all b.  
Illinois. The Pogsonville settlement store was on his  
land, and he operated it for a time, selling in 1875 to  
Mat Gregory. Wilson sold farm in 1876 to Semer  
Colman and moved to Hoopeston. Present owners: P.  
& I. Colman and Betty Zeller, relatives of Semer  
Colman.

BARDON L. CORNWELL (160 acres) 37 and  
Elnor E. 33 both b. New York, Alice L. 10 b. New  
York, Henry L. 5 and Harriet L. 2 both b. Illinois.  
Present owner: Elizabeth Anderson 80, Elizabeth &  
Rudy Trust 80.

B. C. COLE (80 acres) Census shows Ralph Cole 45 and Emily 50 both b. New York, Edwin 21 b. Wisconsin; Ada Scott 20 b. Wis., Alexander Scott 22, farm laborer, and Minnie Scott 4/12 b. Ill. Feb. 1875 R. C. Cole sold his farm to Geo. Townsend taking some Sandwich property in trade. Present owner: Homer Erzinger, Sr.

FRANK A. JESSUP (160 acres) 37 and Tampie 34 both b. New York; Albert S. 6, Jane V. 3 and Frederick 1 all b. Ill.; Theodore Williams 21, farm laborer b. Ohio. Present owner: George Witheft Estate.

MAJOR WARDELL (40 acres) 51 b. New York, Jenette 45 b. Mass.; Josephine 17, Marietta 15, Clara 12, Alice 11, Emily 9 and Andrew 4 all b. Illinois. Major Wardell is said to be first resident of the township and was the first supervisor. Present owner: J. W. Amidon

S. FOSTER (40 acres, no residence) Present owner: Gross-Miller Farms.

#### Section 15

HENRY RANDALL (160 acres) 55 b. Mass., Polly 50 b. New York; Oscar J. 14 b. N. Y., Benjamin 13 and Florence 8 both b. Ill. Brown's Church is shown on the corner of this land. Present owners: Lambert Hines 80, George Piper 80.

ROLAND BROWN (160 acres) 43 b. New York, Ida 37 b. Penn.; Emma 17 and Barrett 15 both b. Penn.; Mary 8, Norman 6, Charles 2 all b. Ill.; John Kline 22, farm laborer b. Prussia. Present owner: Howard Krueger 120, George Piper 40.

GEORGE WALTS (40 acres, no residence) Present owner: Russell Jordan.

H. W. MONTEITH (40 acres, no residence) Present owner: Russell Jordan.

ABRAHAM COOK (240 acres, two farms, each with residence) 54 and Julia 51 both b. New York; Sophronia 17 b. Indiana; Joseph Guyette 23 b. Canada. Present owners: Sylvia Seemark; Edwin Balgeman; Theodore & Loretta Wepprecht.

#### Section 16

ROLAND BROWN (80 acres, no residence) Present owner: Vernon & Verda Gaus

JOHN CAPELIN (80 acres) 54 b. England, Sarah A. 34 b. New York; Eliza 16, Royal 14 and Julia 13 all b. New York. Present owner: Vernon and Verda Gaus.

CHARLES P. BOOTH (80 acres) 53 b. Conn., Martha b. New York; Nettie 15, Judson 5, Frank 3 all b. Illinois. Present owner: L. E. & M. Prussner.

MECRUMY (80 acres, no residence) Present owner: Lucy Connors.

LEWIS REED (160 acres) 45 and Eliza J. 38 both b. New York; George H. b. N. Y.; Edrick L. 12, Lefa A. 10, James Adelbert 7 and Charles 1 all b. Illinois. Present owners: LaVerne King 120, Percy

Reed 40. Portion of original Reed house still stands. Percy Reed is a grandson of Lewis Reed.

J. E. NEGUS (120 acres) 1880 Census: John Negus 36 b. N. Y.; Eliza 33, Willie 12, Hattie 7, Ruth 4, Scott 2 all b. Illinois; Hannah 69 (mother) b. N. Y. Present owner: Percy J. Reed.

GEO. PLATTS (40 acres, no residence) Census shows Emory Platt 29 b. N. Y., Mary 25, Ellner 7, Oscar 4 and Adelbert 10/12 all b. Illinois; Milton Williams 18, farm laborer, b. Ohio; Lizzie Earl 23, domestic servant, b. New York. Oct. 1877 George Platts and family were on their way to Missouri.

#### Section 17

JAMES H. ARMITAGE (160 acres) 44 b. Penn.; Margaret E. 34 b. N. Y., Agnes A. 16, Albert A. 14, Anthony 12, Alice A. 10, Winfield 8, Charles W. 7, Mary E. 3, Jesse Jane 1 all b. Ill. Land passed to Patchett family and to present owner: Louis Siemering.

PADDISON PATCHETT (80 acres) 45 b. England; Martha b. England; Lucy 18, William 16 and Paddison 14 all b. England; Phoebe 12, Radford 10, Frank 8, and Oliver 6 all b. Illinois. Present owner: Louis Siemering.

A. T. MEACHIM (80 acres) 36 b. Penn., Lucy 33 b. Ohio, Cloa 13 and Clinton 9 both b. Ill. A. T. Meachim sold land 1878 and went to Kansas. Present owner: Louis Siemering.

JOHN MICHAM (80 acres). 1870 census does not list John, but next to Alvin Meachim is:

MERCY MECHAM 57 b. New York, son Albert 34 b. Penn. owning real estate, wife Rebecca b. Ohio; Rosalia 1 and Irving 3/12 both b. Ill. Land passed to O. J. Patchett. Present owners: O'Brien Bros. 40, Leslie Patchett Est. 40.

EZEKIEL MECHAM (owning no real estate) 20 b. Penn.; Moriah 26 b. Ill., Mary E. 1 b. Ill.

JOHN HALKYARD (80 acres) 1870 Census Essex Township gives John Halkyard 37 b. England, Ana 34 b. Ireland; James 14, miner, b. England, Edmund 10 and Sarah 12, both b. Ill. Present owners: O'Brien Bros.; Leslie Patchett Est.

BENJAMIN ARMITAGE (80 acres) 48 b. Penn., farmer and insurance agent; Mary L. 47 b. Penn., Albert 18, Horace 17, Ella and Homer, twins, 14 all b. Penn. 1878 B. F. Armitage intending to go to Kansas. Present owners: O'Brien Bros.; Leslie Patchett Est.

LEWIS L. REED (80 acres) Possible tenant was

GEORGE UNDERWOOD (owning no real estate) 26 b. N. Y.; Lotta 17 b. Ill., Della J. 8/12 b. Ill. Present owner: Alvin & Charlotte Unz.

#### Section 18

JOHN KELLY (two 40 acre tracts) 35 and Anna 21 both b. Ireland; Mary A. 3 and John 1 both b. Ill. Present owners: Joseph Kersch 40, George Prussner

PATRICK KIRK (80 acres, no residence) 1880 Census—Owen Kirk 50 and Catherine 45 both b. Ireland; Mary 13, Ella 11, Patrick 9 all b. Missouri, Eugene 6 b. Ill.; Patrick Kirk 78 father, b. Ireland; Katy Riley 10/12 adopted, b. Ill. Present owner: Joseph Kersch; George Prussner.

GEORGE W. OSLER (160 acres) 48 and Eunice 39 both b. Ohio; Orpha 17, Jane 14, John 12, Eddy 10, Eva 6, Alvin 4, Cora 2 all b. Ill. Present owner: Joseph Kersch.

SIMON PRUSSNER (160 acres) 39 and Louisa 35 both b. Prussia; Amelia 10, Henrietta 8, Liza 6, Caroline 4 all b. Indiana; Charles 2 and Emma 4/12 both b. Ill. Present owner: George Prussner, grandson of Simon.

SOLOMON BROOKS (80 acres) 44 and Olive J. 39 both b. New York; Moses 14, Samuel 11 and Abram 9 all b. Michigan. Present owner: Elmer Prussner.

P. KELLY (40 acres, no residence) Present owner: Elmer Prussner.

B. CALAHAN (40 acres, no residence)—January 1876 a new corn crib was being built on the farm of Mr. Callahan. Present owner: Elmer Prussner.

#### Section 19

JOHN GIBSON (160 acres, no residence) lived with Thomas Gibson. Present owner: Wauneta and Ted Zeller.

WILLIAM BOWREN (165 acres) Present owner: Mrs. W. H. Schafroth.

P. H. BUGBEE (161.80 acres, no residence) Present owner: Harry S. Douglas.

D. TOWNSEND (40 acres, no residence) Present owner: Lavern Berger.

THOMAS GIBSON (120 acres) 34 b. Michigan, Mary 32 b. Vermont; Mary 5, George 2 both b. Ill.; John Gibson 35 b. Michigan. Present owner: Lavern Berger.

#### Section 20

E. H. REDFIELD (80 acres, no residence) passed to Wing and Weimer families. Present owner: Melvin Prussner.

J. L. GRIFFIN (240 acres) 31 b. Ohio, Margaret 24 b. Ohio, John H. 5/12 b. Ohio. Present owner: Joseph Kersch.

P. PATCHETT (160 acres, no residence) Present owner: Alvin Berger.

JAMES GIBSON (80 acres) Biographical sketches of Gibson family state James Gibson was a resident of Wayne County, Michigan. Present owner: Effie Palmer.

J. GORMAN (80 acres, no residence) Present owner: Effie Palmer.

#### Section 21

ELIZABETH POTTER (160 acres) 53 b. Ohio,

Marietta 20, George 18, Thomas 15, William 13 and Oscar 10 all b. Illinois. Present owner: Timothy Buckley.

ELI H. REDFIELD (200 acres) 41 b. New York, Mary 33 b. New York, Eva 13, Elwyn 10, Duane 7, Belle 4 all b. Illinois; Patrick Callahan 22, farm laborer, b. Ireland. Present owner: Hattie Colthurst, whose husband, Melvin, was a grandson of E. H. Redfield. Traces of an old buffalo wallow on this farm on a strip of unbroken prairie. Original Redfield house still on this farm.

J. WHIPPLE (80 acres, no residence) 1875, June 3 *Gazette*, Norton—Mr. Colthurst is breaking the Whipple 80. Present owner: Alvin Unz.

JAMES BALLOU (40 acres—"Blue 40") 76 and Hannah 66 both b. Rhode Island, Delbert Nobra 16 b. Mass.; Augustus Nobra 9 b. Illinois. Present owner: Roger Boyer.

F. BREESE (80 acres) Census shows Robert Breese 23 and Sarah 24 both b. England; Bertie 2 b. Ill. Later merchant in Pogsonville and Buckingham. Present owner: B. Schultz and F. Weseman.

WALTER L. HENDRIX (80 acres, two residences) 54 b. Conn., Anne 48 b. New York. Present owner: E. A. Hendrix, grandson of Walter L. Hendrix.

#### Section 22

WALTER MONTEITH (160 acres) 37 and Betsey 34 both b. New York; Walter E. 14, Arthur 10 and Ida 2 all b. Illinois; George Williams 22, farm laborer b. New York. Present owners: Theo. & L. Wepprech 40; Winifred Wisner 120.

HENRY W. MONTEITH (120 acres) 35 b. New York, Louisa 30 b. England; Jennie 10 and Lizzie 6 both b. Illinois; Thomas Wayne 24, farm laborer b. New York. Present owner: Russell Jordan.

A. SCHMELLEN (40 acres, no residence) Present owner: Ev. Hendrix; Loretta Hendrix.

GEORGE WILLIAMS (80 acres) 43 blacksmith b. New York; wife Mary A. 33 b. Canada; George 13, Lena 12, Charles 9, Marion E. 7, and Emily 2 all b. Illinois; Albert Powell 27 farmer b. Illinois. Present owner: Orlin Hendrix. Plat shows a residence and the Norton Post Office. George Williams was Norton postmaster until the railroad came through and Buckingham was established.

THOMAS CRAWFORD (160 acres) 43 b. Ireland, Emma 13, George 11, Catherine 9, Thomas 7, Lewis 5 and Alice 2/12 all b. Illinois. Present owner: Joseph H. Clodi.

ABIALLE A. WHITE (40 acres) 67 and Elizabeth 60 both b. New York. Present owner: H. J. Erzinger, Sr.

#### Section 23

NELSON POTTER (160 acres) 26 b. Illinois, Harriet 26 b. New York; Darius 8/12 b. Ill. 1878,

**Sept. 26 Gazette**—W. Ellsworth is building a large new double crib 38 ft. long on N. Potter's farm. Present owner: Ronald Schneider 80, Jerome Schneider 80.

**MATHERS** (80 acres, two residences) Present owner: Homer Erzinger, Sr.

CHARLES BOUK (120 acres) 27 b. Canada, Laura 30 b. Indiana, Homer 2 and Erastus 1/12 both b. Illinois. Present owner: H. J. Erzinger, Sr. This is a Centennial Farm.

EMORY C. MATHER (120 acres) 25 and Jennie 24 both b. Illinois. Emory C. Mather was a later a hog buyer in Buckingham; leased farm to John Patterson. Present owner: Julia Redfield.

CHARLES A. PORTER (160 acres) 24 b. New York; David H. 46 and Floa 58 both b. New York. Present owners: Ed. Witheft; M. W. Watson.

#### Section 24,

O. MELING (120 acres) Shown on census as Ole Miller 42 and Dora 40 both b. Norway; Julia 16, Josephine 12, John 10, Martha 9, Dora 8, Rebecca 6, Mary 3 and Oliva F. 1 all b. Illinois. Many of this family died of consumption and are buried in Colman Cemetery. Present owners: Otto & Lucille Fritz; Elmer Appel.

B. J. KING (120 acres) Census shows Joseph R. King 35, owning real estate, b. New York; Jennie 34 b. New York; Millard 10 b. Illinois. Good Templar Lodge on this property. Present owner: F. H. Witheft Est.

E. KLANGSON (120 acres) Census shows Edward Clawson 45 and Caroline 43 both b. Norway; Christena 16, John 15, Julia 13, Betsey 12, Mary 10, Martha 8, Sarah 6, Elizabeth 5, Ole 4, Edward 1 all b. Illinois. Present owner: F. H. Witheft Est.

H. HORN (two 40 acre tracts, two residences). 1875, Oct. 14 *Gazette*—Henry Haun has sold his farm for \$30 per acre. Oct. 28 real estate transfers—William H. Horne to William Nutt wh swq 24 30 9 Norton, 80 acres \$2400. Present owner: Wm. Schneider 40, Edward Schneider 40.

T. CLARK (40 acres, no residence) lived with brother-in-law, James Nutt. Present owner: George Ruder.

J. NUTT (40 acres, no residence). Present owner: George Ruder.

J. D. PETERSON (120 acres, no residence) Present owner: John C. Peterson Est. descendant of J. D. Peterson.

#### Section 25

WILLIAM F. KENAGA (160 acres, no residence) Present owner: Elmer Appel.

JAMES NUTT (80 acres) 39 and Sarah 29 both b. England; William J. 8 b. England, Charles 5, Joseph 3, David 1 all b. Illinois; Christian Beeler, farm laborer b. Indiana; Thomas Clark 27 b. England. Present owner: George Ruder, etux.

T. B. OLSON (100 acres) Present owner: Verle H. Gross.

DANIEL A. MONTAGUE (60 acres) 39 and Rebecca 35 both b. Penn., Joseph 10 b. Illinois. Present owner: Elmer Appel; George W. Ruder.

WILLIAM NUTT (80 acres) 36 and Mary 40 both b. England; Minnie 12, William 11, Albert A. 7, Levi G. 4, Marietta 3, Baby 1 all b. Illinois. Present owner: Earl & Elsie Gross.

LARS CHALDE (Chally) (80 acres) Present owner: Elmer Appel.

L. L. CHALDE (Chally) (80 acres) Present owner: George W. Ruder.

#### Section 26

THOMAS ELLIOTT (40 acres) 23 b. New York, Martha 23 b. Illinois. Present owner: Park Hollenbeck.

JOHN H. MUNSON (120 acres) 43 b. Norway, John 13 and Lewis 12 both b. Norway; Hans 10, Benjamin 8, John 6 and Oulee 1 all b. Illinois; Tomina Gunnison 36, housekeeper b. Norway; Seaver Gunnison 13, farm laborer b. Norway. Present owner: Ray Clark Est.

THOMAS CRAWFORD (160 acres, two residences) Present owner: Elmer Crydenwise Est.

WILLIAM H. VAN DOREN (160 acres) 46 b. New York, Hannah 33 b. England, Silas 13, Mary 16, Charles 14, Frank 12, George 8, Rhoda 7, Walter 5 all b. Illinois. Present owners: Elmer, Edwin & Eldon Berger.

JOHN NUTT (80 acres) 34 and Adelaide 34 both b. England. Present owners: Clara Nutt Est., Verle Gross, Darlene J. Hendrix.

JAMES R. NEER (80 acres) spelled Arneer on census—33 b. Maryland, Fannie 28, Clara 7, Arthur 5, Willie 1 all b. Illinois; Ellen A. Titus 21, teacher b. Michigan. Present owners: Clara Nutt Est., Verle Gross, Darlene J. Hendrix.

#### Section 27

TOWNSEND (160 acres) Present owners: Village of Buckingham; Clarence & Ellen Smith; Gertrude Siedentop.

WILLIAM MURRAY (160 acres) 1870 census give Michael Murray 60 and Ann 50 both b. Ireland; William 25 b. England, Ann (wife) 23 b. Penn., Mary 2 b. Ill.; Ann Easton 85 b. Ireland. Present owners: Viator Buckley; Elwyn Wagner.

RALPH BEARDSLEY (80 acres, no residence) Ralph Beardsley 22 b. Illinois, owning real estate, shown in household of James Townsend. Present owner: Marie W. Sauer.

ASA BEARDSLEY (80 acres, no residence) 21 b. Illinois, shown in household of James Townsend. Present owner: Gordon Peterson Estate.

JAMES TOWNSEND (160 acres) Present owners: Village of Buckingham; Floyd Weseman,

H.B.

## Section 28

E. WILLIAM HENDREY (160 acres) Census gives William F. Hendrix 52 b. Conn., Wealthy 46 b. New York; Silas W. 18 and Andrew 12 both b. New York; Charles 10 and Walter 7 both b. Illinois. Present owners: B. Schultz and F. Weseman 80; Ethel Sumner 80. William F. Hendrix was the ancestor of Clair Hendrix.

MATT MEISENBACH (80 acres) 45 b. Prussia; Anna 37 b. France; Mary 9, John 5, Anthony 3, Jacob 2, Angelina 1 all b. Illinois. Present owner: Ted & Wauneta Zeller. Mrs. Zeller is a great-granddaughter of Matt Meisenbach.

LEWIS BROWN (80 acres, no residence) 1875, May 6 *Gazette*: Mr. Miganbau (Meisenbach) and Charlie Whitcomb are breaking up the Brown 80 and sowing flax on it. Present owners: Ted & Wauneta Zeller.

FRANCIS PENRY (80 acres) Census gives Henry. Francis Penry 25 b. Ohio, Sarah 20 b. New York; Nancy 3 and Anna 1 both b. Illinois; George Pope 16, farm laborer b. Penn. Present owner: Donald & Paul Saffer.

I. WILSON (80 acres, no residence) Present owner: Donald & Paul Saffer.

JOHN ESSER (80 acres) 29 b. Prussia; Elizabeth 26 b. Michigan; Nellie A. 2 and George A. 6/12 both b. Illinois. Present owner: Amelia Urbain.

N. BALLOU (80 acres) Census gives Henry C. Ballou 25, Mary E. 23 and Anna 2 all b. Illinois. Also Albridge Ballou 28 b. Mass. and Mary 28 b. Canada are shown owning real estate. Present owner: McKinley Hendrix Estate.

## Section 29

T. SHEMIRIAN (100 acres) 1880 census shows Theodore Schmellen 50 and Elizabeth 48 both b. Germany, Willie 18 and Anna 7 both b. Illinois; Henry Engles 37, farmer b. New York, Mary Engles 43 b. New York, and Cassius Engles 8 b. Illinois. Present owner: Charlotte Unz. Schmellen family still represented in the township by the families of Mrs. Milton Colthurst and Mrs. James Cassiday.

SARAH CARPENTER (80 acres) Perry Carpenter 27 b. Penn.; Sarah 20 b. Illinois; Lizzie 1 b. Illinois. Present owner: Dr. Joseph Meisenbach, a sixth generation descendant of Elbert Colstock who purchased entire Section 29 in 1854.

C. ACKERMAN (80 acres) February 1888 *Gazette* tells of death of Kate Ackerman, a sister of Mrs. Perry Carpenter and Mrs. George W. Stover. All were Colstock daughters. Present owner: Handley Trust.

FLORA COLSTOCK (80 acres) 1870 census shows Flora Colstock 27 b. Pennsylvania as a domestic servant in household of Henry P. Decker,

not owning any real estate. It also shows: Elbert C. Colstock 41 b. Penn. owning property, Deborah 30, John 4 and Mary 2 all b. Illinois; Margaret Miller b. Penn. The final report of the Estate of E. C. Colstock was approved in County Court October 1874. Present owner: Merlin Elmhorst.

H. DONALDSON (80 acres) Present owner: Henry Elmhorst.

C. A. C. DECKER (70 acres) Census lists Henry P. Decker 29 and Moriah 29 both b. Penn.; Herbert 2 and Robert 6/12 both b. Illinois and Flora Colstock as shown above. Present owner: Leonard Siedentop.

MARTHA STOVER (70 acres) 31 and George Stover 30 both b. Pennsylvania. Mrs. Stover was a Colstock daughter. Present owner: Leonard Siedentop.

DR. KNOTT (80 acres) Present owner: Leonard Siedentop.

## Section 30

A. PORT (160 acres, no residence) Present owner: Joseph Benetone.

WM. F. GRISE (321.36 acres) 32 and Mila K. 28 both b. Penn.; Verna 4 b. Penn.; Daniel Williams 55, farm laborer b. New York. Present owners: Mrs. Ellen Anderson Estate 160; Dr. D. Reed Handley 160.

JAMES JOHNSON (160 acres) 54 Mary 48, Charles 17, Wilson 15, Marchall 13, Harry Grant 4 all b. Pennsylvania; Letitia Lecke 14 b. Penn. Present owner: Dr. D. Reed Handley.

## Section 31

JACOB M. WALTERS (160 acres) 48, Mary 41, Tunis M. 16, James R. all b. Ohio; William B. 10 and Cora M. 9 both b. Illinois; Lizzie Dishinger 14 b. Penn. domestic servant; John McGarvey 15 b. Illinois. Present owner: Chester Moore.

HORATIO M. WELLS (40 acres) 54 b. Vermont, Elizabeth 50 b. Penn. Present owner: M. M. Kelleher 20; Thomas McGinnis 20.

HORATIO H. WELLS (40 acres) 28, Louisa 29, and Anna 2 all b. Pennsylvania; Martha 2/12 b. Illinois. Present owner: Thomas McGinnis.

E. ELLIOTT (76.20 acres)—Only reference to Elliott family found was *Gazette* item of March 13, 1879; Miss Elliott from State of New York visiting a sister, Mrs. Culbertson, here; died quite suddenly on a trip to Kendall County with Culbertson family. 1870 census: Peter A. Culbertson 50 and Christena 31 both b. Norway; Andrew 12, Ernest 10, Sarah 8, August 5, Neils 3 all b. Illinois. Culbertson shown owning real estate. Present owner: John Benedetto.

ELI H. WEBSTER (78.39 acres) 55 b. Vermont, Mary b. New York, George 15, Lizzie and Charles 5 all b. Illinois. Present owner: Charles Fitzpatrick.

WILLIAM MARVIN (78.30 acres, two residences) 52 b. New York, Eliza 58 b. Penn.

GEORGE MARVIN (owning no property) 26 b.

Penn.; Mary 27 b. Illinois; Alfred 4/12 b. Illinois. Present owners: Charles Fitzpatrick; Wayne Colthurst.

CLARK WRIGHT (80 acres, no residence) Present owners: Dorothy and James Walsh, Jr. 40; Mrs. Frances Smith Est. 40.

C. M. LUTHER (80 acres, no residence) Present owner: Frank Hebekeuser 40; June Meyers Estate 40. Section 32

JAMES GLASS (80 acres) 61 and Mary 65 both b. England. Present owner: Charles D. McWilliams Jr.

CHARLES G. KELLOGG (80 acres) 28 b. New York, Frances 28 b. Michigan; Ada 6 and Frederick 1 both b. Illinois; William Radley 11, laborer b. Illinois; Edward Cogwin 28 b. New York. Residence is shown on property line of Glass and Kellogg. *Gazette* June 27, 1875: J. B. Glass and Charles Kellogg have disposed of their farm of 160 acres to Will Sargent, intending to remove to California. Present owner: Charles D. McWilliams Jr.

JOSEPH SMITH (160 acres) 54, Mary 44, John 20, Clara 16 all b. Maine; George 11 b. Illinois. Present owner: Robert Breitbarth.

THEODORE SMITH (196 acres) 49 b. Maine, Martha 43 b. Vermont; Josephine 15 b. Mass.; Edward 12, Emery 12, Ada 10, Justus 8, Theodore 6, Lydia 4, Bertie 1/12 all b. Illinois; John K. Slickner 41, farm laborer b. Vermont. Present owners: Dorothy Walsh; Everett Mau.

WILLIAM GLASS (45 acres) Present owner: Everett Mau.

T. B. GLASS (80 acres, no residence) Present owner: Robert Breitbarth.

### Section 33

MATTHEW F. CAMPBELL (120 acres) 54 b. Penn., Margaret 54 b. Wales; William 17, Maggie 15, and Robert 12 all b. Penn.; Rebecca 9 and Charles 7 both b. Illinois. Matthew F. Campbell was a township official and also a state representative in 1884. Present owners: Ethel Sumner; Donald & Paul Saffer.

J. I. STATES (66.75 acres)—1870 census gives: Thomas L. States 61 b. Penn.; Mary 61 b. Conn.; Juniatta 18 and Ida 17 b. Penn. Juniatta States later married George Carpenter. Present owner: Donald & Paul Saffer.

HENRY B. STATES (66.75 acres) 37 and Mary 35 both b. Penn.; Ella 13 and Charles 9 both b. Penn.; George Workman 13, farm laborer b. Illinois. Present owners: Irma Wadleigh Estate, Mrs. Wadleigh was a granddaughter of Henry B. States.

WILLIAM V. STATES (66.75 acres) 32 and Kate 31 both b. Penn. Present owner: Irma Wadleigh Estate.

THOMAS B. GLASS (80 acres) 48 b. England; Jane 44 b. Ireland; Emma 18 b. Ohio; Willie 12 and May 10 both b. Illinois; Garana Glass 22, farm laborer

b. Michigan. May Glass was also listed as Ida May and was the wife of O. J. Patchett; descendants still in Norton Township are Mrs. Howard Dunn, the Carl Hunt family, and the Webster families. Gene and Dennis Webster, fifth generation descendants of Thomas Glass reside on the farm. Present owner: Raymond O. Webster Estate.

F. FUSSER (80 acres, two residences) Present owner: Raymond O. Webster Estate.

S. E. DEWEY (160 acres) Present owner: Verda B. Gaus.

### Section 34

JOB MC NAMEE (200 acres)—A biographical sketch of George McNamee states that Job McNamee, his father, settled in Norton Township in 1871. Job McNamee had children William, George, Viola, Maggie, T. H. and Perry. Present owner: Gordon Peterson Estate 80; Mrs. Eldon Berger 119.

LORENZO M. KELLOGG (40 acres) b. New York, Lizzie 25 b. Penn.; Hattie 2 and Scott 10/12 both b. Illinois. Lizzie Kellogg was the daughter of Matthew Campbell. Present owner: Paul & Donald Saffer.

M. SARSFIELD (80 acres, no residence) By 1882 Michael Sarsfield is shown on poll list. Present owner: Laura McKenna.

ANTHONY PETERSON (80 acres) 36, Mirander 42, Julia 12, Christena 8, Terris 7, Caroline 4, Anthony 2, Randall 1/12, Peter 13 all b. Norway. Present owner: Lola B. Chally.

N. BURGERSON (80 acres) Present owner: Lola B. Chally.

ELIZABETH W. BROWN (160 acres) 1870 census lists: Elijah Brown 44 and Jenette 37 both b. New York; William 9 and Nettie 2 both b. Illinois; Samuel Tucker 30, farm laborer b. New York; Amens Tuller 43 b. New York, owning real estate. Present owner: Elmer Berger.

### Section 35

FERGUSON CASSADY (160 acres) 32 b. Ohio; William 7, John 5, Komelia(?) 3, Fannie 1, Laura 7/12 all b. Illinois; Margaret Cassady 33 b. Ohio, housekeeper. Present owner: J. W. Amidon.

CHARLES W. FULFORD (160 acres) 36 b. New York. 1880 census shows him 46 b. New York; Josephine Law, sister, 34 b. New York; Eddie Law, nephew, 10 and Maybele Law, niece, 8 both b. New York; C. J. Calver 28, servant, b. New York; Louise Fulford 66, mother, b. New York. Present owner: Edith Redfield Estate.

SIDNEY MALLORY (160 acres). 1880 census shows him 48 and Harriett 52 both b. New York; William Elliott 24, servant b. Penn. Present owners: Eldon Berger 80; Lowell Nowack 80.

— (160 acres) Present owners: Edith Redfield Estate 80; F. D. & E. M. King.

### Section 36

E. NELSON (120 acres) Present owner: Oliver Witheft.

WILLIAM NUTT (80 acres, no residence) Present owner: Verle Gross 40; D. I. Hendrix 40.

JAMES R. NEER (spelled Arneer on census—40 acres) 33 b. Maryland; Fannie 28, Clara 7, Arthur 5, Willie 1 all b. Illinois; Ellen A. Titus 21, teacher b. Michigan. Present owner: Clair Hendrix.

JAMES FLEMING (360 acres) 51 b. Ireland; Sarah 48 b. Ohio; Mary 20, James D. 18, Emma 16, John F. 14, Joseph W. 11 all b. Illinois; Margaret E. Van Doren (daughter) 23 and Albert Van Doren 21, farm laborer, both b. Illinois. Present owners: Lowell Nowack; Oliver Witheft; Marietta Smith. Mrs. Smith is a granddaughter of James Fleming.

CANUTE OSCAR (Osker) (40 acres) 37, Bertha 48 and Lina 8 all b. Norway. Present owner: Marietta Smith.

### Section 1 South

A. HOWE (160 acres) Present owner: Robert Wilcox.

JOHN PHELPS (160 acres) 59 b. New York; Mariah 42 b. Canada; Lester 24 b. New York. Present owners: Robert Wilcox 80; Roy G. Wilcox Est. 80.

C. RENUS (80 acres, no residence) Present owner: Roy G. Wilcox Estate.

D. R. SWARTWOUT (80 acres) 1873 Atlas lists D. R. Swartwout, farmer Section 1, P. O. Eldridgeville, Ford Co., b. Otsego County, New York, came to county in 1866. Present owner: Buckingham Farms, Howard Wilcox, Manager.

WILLIAM I. GRIMWOOD (160 acres, no residence) Present owner: Lloyd Christensen.

### Section 2 South

ANDREW KRADSON (159.80 acres) Present owner: Harry Elmhorst.

GEORGE CRYDENWISE (158.50 acres) 32 and Amelia 30 both b. New York; Fannie 9 b. New York; George 2/12 b. Illinois; Joseph Manchester 22, farm laborer, b. New York. Present owner: L. C. Crydenwise, grandson.

A. H. FULLER (80 acres) 1880 census: A. H. Fuller 52 and Caroline 49 both b. New York; J. Manchester 69, father-in-law, b. New York; Charles Marks 15, servant b. Illinois. Mrs. A. H. Fuller was a sister of Mrs. George Crydenwise. Present owner: Emmet Winterroth.

H. HEDGES (40 acres, no residence) 1880 census: Horace Hedges 38 b. Vermont, Laura 20, wife, and Chas. H. 1, son, both b. Illinois. Mrs. Hedges was Laura Eldred. Present owner: M. Winterroth.

ANDREW J. ALFORD (120 acres) 34 b. Norway, Betsey 42 b. Scotland; Robert 10, Jennie 9, Jacob A. 5, George 1 all b. Illinois. Present owner:

Dr. James Goldenstein.

FORGUS ANDERSON (80 acres) 28 b. Sweden; June 31 b. New York; Lilly Woodford 8 b. Illinois. Present owner: Buckingham Farms, Howard Wilcox, Manager.

### Section 3 South

M. J. GROGAN (157.25 acres) Census shows Mary Ann Grogan 36 b. Ireland owning land; Michael J. 38, farmer, b. Ireland; Henry Murray 26, farm laborer, b. Ireland. 1874, April 16 *Gazette*, Norton: Mr. M. Grogan, one of our former townsmen went to Texas for his health. William Murray, his nephew, received notice of his death and has gone to Chicago to attend the funeral services. Present owner: Vernon Gaus.

J. R. CARMON (157.25 acres) Present owner: Lola B. Chally 122.25; Vernon Gaus remainder.

W. WILLIS (80 acres) 1878, Oct. 10 *Gazette*: Lee Willis and his mother will start for Nebraska in a few days. Present owner: Alvin & Laura Gaus.

JOEL E. FARLEY (240 acres) Present owner: George Gaus.

### Section 4 South

IRA J. GUILTNER (118.69 acres) 35 and Moriah 33 both b. New York; William 13, Liona 11, Nettie 7 all b. Illinois. Lyle Guiltner, a great-grandson is still a Cabery resident. Present owner: Walter Geiger Estate.

J. FREEMAN (19.18 acres) Present owner: John W. Yoder.

C. C. EASTON (19.18 acres) 1870 census shows Cyrus M. Easton, 27 physician b. Ohio owning a small amount of property; Mary Ann 27 b. Indiana, Cora B. 1 b. Illinois. Present owner: John W. Yoder.

CASIUS C. EASTON (78.24 acres) 25 b. Ohio; Mary 21 b. England; Addison 2 b. Illinois; Alexander Easton 68, no occupation, birthplace shown as Illinois (this is doubtful). Present owner: John W. Yoder.

WILLIAM W. BROCK (157.96 acres) 40 b. New York. Present owner: Joe Kersch.

LEWIS HADDEN (160 acres) 29 b. Illinois; Margaret 23 b. Ireland; Madison Gregory 21, farmer b. Michigan. Present owner: Milton Colthurst Estate.

ELIZA GRISWOLD (40 acres, no residence) Present owner: Milton Colthurst Estate.

### Section 5 South

WELLINGTON G. ARMSTRONG (77.90 acres) 56 b. New York; Grace 57 b. England; Theodore 23 and Edgar 18 both b. Michigan; Betsey Glass 59 b. New York. Present owner: V. E. Schrock Estate.

ORRIN STRICKLAND (154.90 acres) 51, Caroline 43, Emma 21, Adelford 19 and Frank 17 all b. New York. Present owner: Mrs. Arthur Beckman.

B. PURMETON (77.90 acres) Present owner: Milton Colthurst Estate.

JOHN A. HACKETT (80 acres) 34 and Bertha 31 both b. Maine; Lillian 2 b. Illinois. 1876, April 13 Gazette—Prof. Hacket has closed his singing school in Dist. No. 4. 1875, Oct. 28 Real Estate Transfers—John Hacket to Albert Myers, wh swq 5 29 9, 80 acres. Present owner: Irene Beatty.

WALTER A. COLTON (160 acres) 34 b. Vermont, Louisa 27 and Carrie 4 both b. Illinois; Angeline French 14, domestic servant b. New York; John M. Hose 24, farm laborer b. Ohio. Present owner: Charles E. Christ Estate.

—(40 acres) Present owner: Petrea Siedentop.

WILLIAM GLASS (40 acres) 54 and Mary 54 both b. England; Charles 17 b. Michigan; Warren Allison 9 b. Illinois. Present owner: V. E. Schrock Estate.

Census lists ADAM GLASS 56 b. England, Mary 25 b. Illinois; George 5, Frank 3 and Ellen 1 all b. Illinois next to William Glass. Adam Glass may have been the owner of the 40 acres having no name on it.

#### Section 6 South

CHARLES M. LUTHER (77 acres) 47 b. Vermont; Emma 46 b. England; Gertrude M. 18 teacher b. Vermont; Charles W. 16, William H. 14, George M. 11 and Frank P. 9 all b. Illinois. Present owner: June Meyers Estate.

CHARLES M. LUTHER (80 acres, no residence) Present owner: Cath. B. Mau.

JOHN T. VANDERVOORT (162 acres) 39 b. Ohio; Moriah 30, Jonas 13, Alpheus 11, Margaret 7, Mary Luna 5, Anna 3, Dacia 1, all b. Illinois. 1876, Mar. 2 Gazette—Real Estate Transfers: J. T. Vandervoort to Lewis Ruse, 160 acres. Present owner: Wayne Colthurst.

HOYT (67.11 acres, no residence) Present owners: Wayne Colthurst; Paul Knittle Est.

THOMAS LEIGH (Lee) (160 acres) 27, Charlotte 28 and Louisa 9, all b. England; Joseph Bradben 22 b. England, Elizabeth 18 b. England and Bessy 4/12 b. Illinois. Present owner: Michael Tyrell.

BOOTH (80 acres, no residence) Present owner: Michael Tyrell.

#### Section 7 South

J. T. (80 acres) Present owner: Giacometti Brothers.

J. COAL (80 acres) 1870 census: Irving Cole 28 b. New York; Moriah 23 b. England; Sherman 4 and Ida 2 both b. Illinois. Present owner: Giacometti Brothers.

A. D. C. BUGBEE (155 acres, no residence) Present owners: Alb. Roggenburg; Robert Roggenburg.

JOHN SEARGEANT (80 acres, two residences) 36 b. England; Sarah 34 b. Illinois; William 12 b. Illinois. Present owner: Glen Sargeant Estate.

EDWARD HURST (no real estate) listed next to

John Sargeant—38 b. England; Anna 33 and William 14 both b. England; Amelia 11 and Elisabeth 5 both b. Illinois.

WILLIAM B. SEARGEANT (80 acres) 24 b. England, Augusta 22 b. Illinois; Columbus Skelton 23, farm laborer b. Illinois. Present owner: Glen Sargeant Estate, descendant of William.

FELIX DISHNER (Delinger on census) (80 acres) 52 b. Baden; Margaret 45 b. Beyerne; Caroline 18, Elisabeth 14 and Margaret 11 all b. Penn.; Helen 7 and Felix 1 both b. Illinois. Present owner: Francis Paradies.

NICHOLAS YOUNG (80 acres) 40 and Martha 31 both b. Prussia; Mary 7, Lena 5, Augusta 3, Caroline 3/12 all b. Illinois. Present owners: T. A. Sadler 40; Hilda Sadler 40.

#### Section 8 South

J. BOESON (80 acres) 1870 census shows Peter Boeson, farmer not owning real estate, b. Prussia; Elizabeth 30 b. Prussia; Anthony 1 and Elizabeth 2/12 both b. Illinois. Present owner: Petrea Siedentop.

H. E. HEDLESON (80 acres, no residence) Present owner: Petrea Siedentop.

J. JONES (80 acres) 1870 census shows Michael Jones 52, farmer, b. Prussia; Mary 50, Amy 14, Angeline 19 and Nicholas 21 all b. Prussia. Present owner: Petrea Siedentop.

W. WAGLEER (80 acres) Present owner: Petrea Siedentop.

NICHOLAS SADLER (80 acres) 43 and Elisabeth 30 both b. Prussia; Caroline 3 and Elisabeth 1 both b. Illinois. Present owner: Giacometti Bros.

PETER SADLER (80 acres) 31 b. Prussia; Margaret 29 b. Luxemburg; Catherine 7, Nicholas 6, Henry 4, Anthony 1 all b. Illinois; Nicholas Sadler 83, no occupation, and Catherine 79 both b. Prussia. Present owner: Giacometti Bros. Numerous Sadler families and descendants still reside in the Cabery area.

JOHN PASTOREL (159 acres) 32 farmer b. Belgium; Elisabeth 31 b. Holland; Henry 8, Charles 5, Susan 3 and John 1 all b. Illinois. Five children of this family died of diphtheria between Nov. 1 and Dec. 3, 1879. Wagon shop, Caberry Post Office and C. L. Ames store were on the corner of this land. Present owner: Clyde J. Darter.

#### Section 9 South

T. GIFFORD (160 acres) Present owner: Margaret Kratina.

BENJ. KNICKERBOCKER (80 acres, no residence) Reference to Knickerbocker family in 1880 Census: John Alford 30 b. New York; Martha 39 b. Ohio; Harvey V. 5 and Matilda 3 both b. Illinois; Burt Knickerbocker 19, stepson and Eddie Knickerbocker, 17 (or 12) stepson, born Illinois.

Present owner: V. E. Schrock Estate.

MATHIAS WELCH (80 acres, two residences) 37 and Margaret 31 both b. Prussia; Jacob 7, Anna 9, Louisa 2 all b. Illinois. Present owner: Pete & Alice Koerner 40; E. C. Sadler 40.

WAGNER (80 acres) Six houses shown on this property, including A. White and Wm. S. Keyes. Present owner: Village of Cabery; William Koerner.

A. P. ROGERS (40 acres, no residence) Present owner: Gifford & Robinson.

THOMAS ROGERS (80 acres) 31 b. Maine, Roxanna 31 b. Illinois; Lester 6, Fred L. 4, Jessie M. 1, Charles E. 10 all b. Illinois. Present owner: Gifford & Robinson.

HORACE A. BURROWS (120 acres) 35 b. Ohio; Elisabeth 32 b. New York; Harry 9, Albert 7 and Hattie 9/12 all b. Illinois. Present owner: Ivan Peterson.

#### Section 10 South

JOHN BROWN (160 acres) 38 and Hannah 31 both b. New York; Charles 7 and Fred 5, both b. New York; Mary 2 b. Illinois; George Krielman 23, farm laborer, b. Penn. Present owner: Alvin Gaus.

S. WRIGHT (80 acres) Present owner: Alvin Gaus.

MC NULTY (80 acres, no residence) Present owner: Roy Johnson.

J. WEAVER (80 acres) 1870 Census shows Richard Weaver, no real estate, 34, Rhoda 30, and Lydia 13 all b. New York. Present owner: Everett Mau.

SAMUEL SAMPSON (80 acres) 36 farmer b. Norway, Emily 23 b. Ohio; James 1 and Ida 2/12 both b. Illinois. Present owner: Robert Peacock.

HENRY SWARTWOUT (160 acres) 45 farmer/carpenter, Harriet 38 and Emma 16 all b. New York; Melissa 14, Frank 9 and Adell 2 all b. Illinois; Leroy Merrick, farm laborer 18 b. Ill.; Charles Hull 23, farmer b. Ill.; Norman Hull 13, farm laborer b. Ill.; Walter Mott 20 farm laborer, b. Ill. Present owners: E. G. Winterroth 80; M. N. Winterroth 80.

#### Section 11 South

T. P. ELDRED (160 acres) Was voter #35 on Norton poll list of 1880. T. P. Eldred m. Olive (Niles) Bush, widow of John Bush and mother of Don. A. Bush. Present owners: Louis & Dora Boyd 80; A. D. Christensen Estate 80.

J. F. EASTON (80 acres) John R. Easton came to Rogers Township, Ford County, locating at Eldridgeville in approximately 1872; wife Gracia, son Ransford Perrin, later of Herscher. Moved to Buckingham circa 1881. Present owner: James A. Goldenstein.

HIRAM ELDRED (80 acres) 44 and Catherine 42 both b. New York; Milda 4 b. Illinois; Swartwout, Mary 16 b. New York and Swartwout

—(unreadable) 32, b. New York. 1876, April 13 Gazette—Estate of Hiram Eldred, report of administrator set aside. Present owner: James A. Goldenstein.

ASA M. PRESTON (240 acres) 42 b. Vermont; Mary J. 27 b. New York; William G. 8, Ulysses G. 7, Charles M. 4 and Alice M. 1 all b. Illinois. Present owner: Harry D. Parker.

NELSON ADAMS (80 acres, no residence) Eldridgeville M. E. Church on this property. Present owner: John Richie.

#### Section 12 South

JAMES BOWLBY (163 acres) In 1873 James Bowlby, farmer was living on Section 7, Pilot Township, P. O. Eldridgeville, Ford Co.; born Clement County, Nova Scotia. Came to county 1855. Present owner: Arthur Schultz.

WILLIAM I. GRIMWOOD (80 acres) 1880 census shows: W. H. Grimwood 33 and Louisa S. 27 both b. Illinois; Nellie J. 7, J. P. 6, O. L. 4, E. H. 3, Newton 1, all b. Illinois; Geo. Beardsley 45 b. New York servant; W. H. Marsh 21 b. Indiana servant. Present owner: Lloyd Christensen.

F. A. (40 acres) Present owner: Louis & Dora Boyd.

NELSON ADAMS (200 acres) 48 b. New Jersey; Jane 42 b. Ohio; Mary E. 18 and Olive E. 12, both b. Illinois. Residence of Dr. B. F. Farley on this property. Present owners: Larry Hunt 20, Ivan Bergeron 180.

CHARLES H. REDFIELD (157 acres, two residences) 38 b. New York; Sarah A. 32 b. Vermont; Watson E. 12, Leeland C. 3, and Carrie L. 6/12 all b. Illinois. Present owners: Susan Clodi 80; David Anderson 80.

Names of heads of household on 1870 Census not located on 1873 plat; some because they were tenant farmers; others probably had sold property and moved on before 1873:

1. Butter, Frank 25, farmer, owned real estate b. Canada; 4. Fountain, James 50, carpenter, b. Canada; 6. Bailey, Simeon 40, farming, b. Canada; 9. Farrington, Dulla(?) 26, farmer, b. New York; 15. \*\*Chatfield, Walter 37, farmer, owned real estate, b. England; 16. Crandall, Christopher 24, farmer, owned real estate, b. Illinois; 18. Gardner, Henry 30, farmer, owned real estate, b. England; 22. \*\*\*Sieberg, John 49, farmer, b. Prussia; 26. Meisenbach, Simon 32, farmer, b. Prussia; 39. Russell, David 62, farmer, owned real estate, b. New York; 50. Bagg, John P. 49, farmer, owned real estate, b. Mass.; 53. Thompson, John, 77, no occupation, b. Ireland; 54. Lawson, Canute 37, farmer, owned real estate, b. Norway; 57. Richardson, Goodsen 27, farmer, owned real estate, b. Ohio; 63. Metz, Matthew 20, farmer, b.

Prussia; 65. Eastwood, Abram 30, farmer, owned real estate, b. Illinois; 71. Greenawalt, David 30, farmer, owned real estate, b. Ohio; 73. Larvell, Alfred 30, farmer, owned real estate, b. Illinois; 74. Kagy, John M. 36, farmer, owned real estate, b. Ohio; 97. Carr, Samuel 46, farmer, owned real estate, b. Maine; 102. Milligan, Ellen 56, keeping house, b. Ireland; 112.\*Moran, Thomas 31, farmer, owned real estate, b. Ireland; 117. Cooper, Charles 36, farmer, b. Ireland; 119. Keppers, Charles 50, farmer, b. Bremen, Germany; 132. Holverson, John 32, farmer, owned real estate, b. Norway; 133. Thomas, Amos 25, farmer, owned real estate, b. Pennsylvania; 152. Butter, Francis 47, farm laborer, b. Ireland; 155.Pickard, William 30, farmer & blacksmith, b. New York; 173. Landergan, Dennis 37, farmer, owned real estate, b. Ireland; 177. Mahoney, Dennis 28, farmer, b. Ireland; 179. Littleton, James 45,

farmer, b. Ireland; 182. Murphy, Thomas 22, farmer, owned real estate, b. New York; 183. Maginnis, Peter 30, farmer, owned real estate, b. Ireland; 202. Blackman, Elijah 56, farm laborer, b. Massachusetts; 204. Smith, Thomas 80, raising cattle, b. Ireland.

\*1875, Feb. 18 *Gazette*—Norton—Thomas Mooran has leased the Cole farm of Mr. Geo. Townsend and taken possession. Several are looking for farms to rent. They are hard to find in this locality.

\*\*1875, June 3, *Gazette*—County Court, May term. Motion by Administrator of William A. Chatfield estate to the appraisement bill or widow's award filed March 17, 1873 from the files.

\*\*\*The Simon Meisenbach family moved to Chicago.

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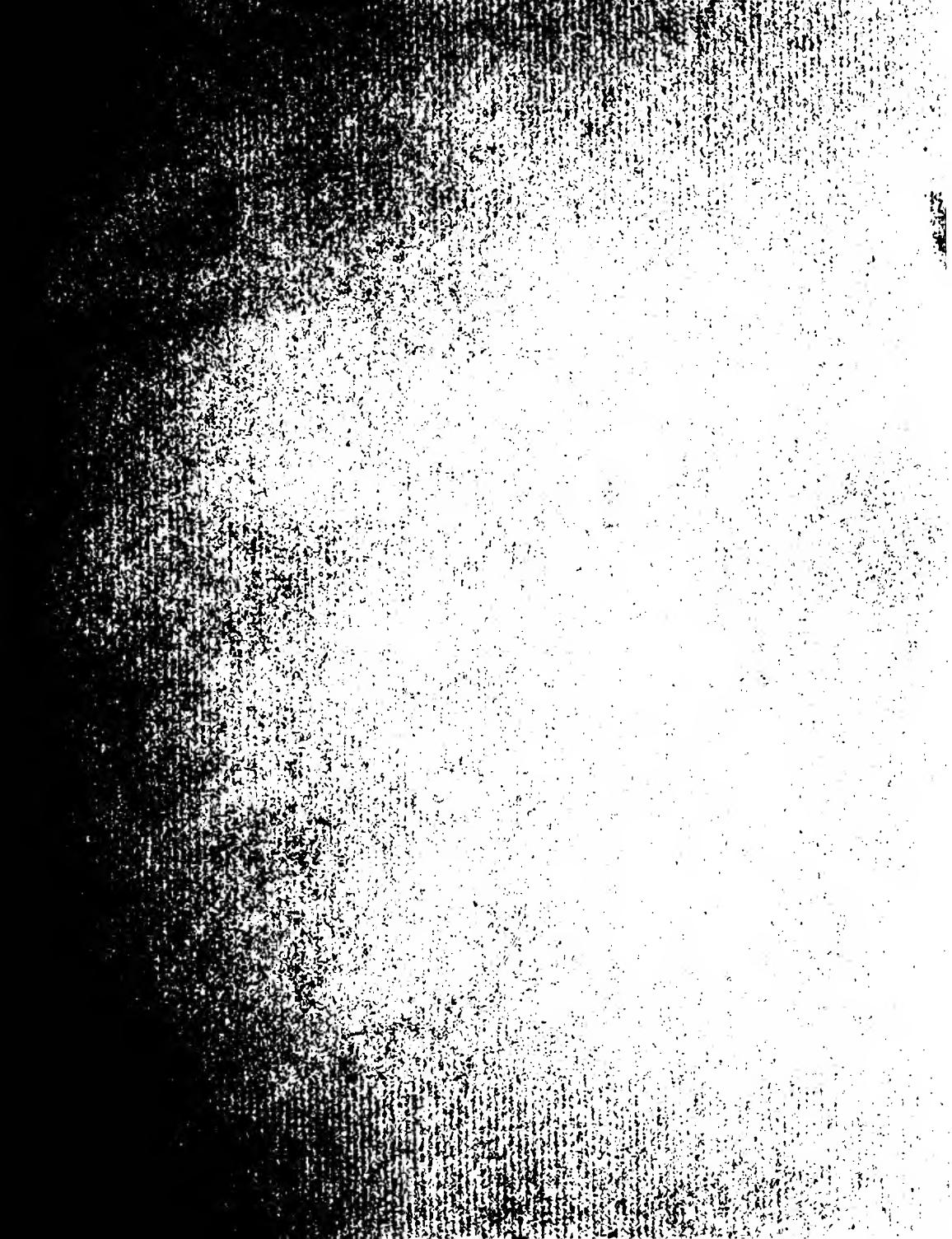
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*The Kankakee Journal*—Clippings  
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Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Colthurst—Colton School record book  
Floyd Wesemann—Sportsman Club notes, P. O. data, town plats, etc.  
Eldon and Harold Colman—Interview and picture  
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Mrs. Ethel Sumner—Newspaper clipping  
Mrs. Fred Nowack—Interview  
Lazern Crydenwise—Interview and picture identification  
International Harvester—Prairie sod-breaker picture and story  
Mrs. George Frame—Smith Cemetery data

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Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Berger—Picture and data  
Mrs. Warren Overright—M.E. Church history and pictures, interview, etc.  
*Herscher Pilot*  
Mr. and Mrs. Laverne King—Notes, pictures, Union Hill Elevator Company notes  
Miss Amelia Majorowicz—Pictures and identification—Winstanley booklet  
HEA booklet of 1969  
Alvin Gaus—Support and interview  
Orlin Hendrix—Interview  
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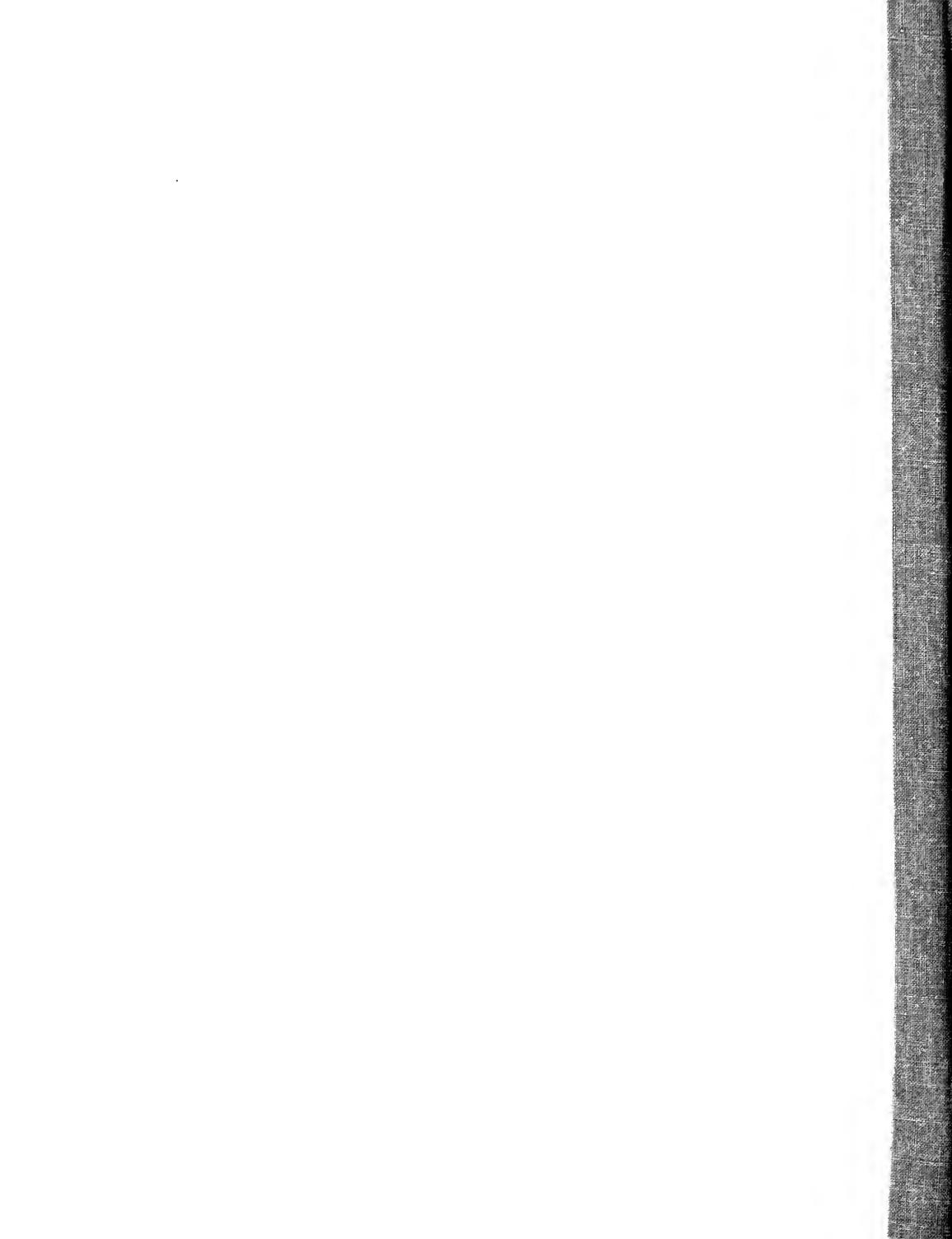






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